THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIV.] HONGKONG, MONDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1906. No. 23

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	385
Leading Articles:—	
British Industries and German Views	386
Are American Treaties Worthless?	386
Evidence in Official Letters	387
European Hen and Asiatic Ducklings	387
Foreign Stock in Chinese Shops	388
Unprincipled Abbreviation	388
Anti-Opium Unreason	389
St. Andrew's Ball	389
Supreme Court	390
Alleged Insurance Frauds	394
The Bank Note Trick	394
A New Territory Tragedy	394
Successful Salvage	394
Hotel Manager Drowned	394
Arrival of Acting Governor	394
British Borneo	394
International Walking Match	394
Correspondence	395
Hongkong Typhoon Relief Fund	395
Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club	395
Ipoh Official on Chinese Pleasures	395
Canton	396
Macao	397
Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.	397
The Census	398
Sectarian Squabbles in Chekiang	398
Trade With Newchwang	398
New Bridges for Shanghai	398
Shanghai Roads Congested	398
Chinese Railway Funds	399
Medical Misadventure at Manila	399
Sir Robert Hart's Circular	400
Revenue and Expenditure	400
The Seoul Telephone Service	400
The New Swatow Railway	400
Duty on Korean and Chinese Goods	400
Water Return	401
His Excellency's Health	401
H.E. the Governor	401
Double Welding	401
Miscellaneous	401
Commercial	401
Shipping	404

BIRTHS.

On November 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. SCHMIDT-DECARLI, of the German Bank, Kobe, a daughter.

On November 27th, at Shanghai, the wife of JAMES CLARK, I. M. C., of a daughter.

On November 29th, at 10 Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon, the wife of R. W. M. LONGRIDGE, M.A., R.N., of a son.

On November 30th, at Shanghai, the wife of A. R. LEAKE, of a daughter.

On December 2nd, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. HAROLD SHALLARD a son.

At Shanghai, the wife of D. R. MCEUEN, of a daughter.

At Shanghai, the wife of C. RASMUSSEN, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On October 20th, at St. Patrick's R. C. Church by the Rev. Father Cassidy C. C. Detective-Sergeant EDMOND O'SULLIVAN, Hongkong Police, son of Thomas O'Sullivan, Curraduffe House, Newmarket County Cork, to MARIA, third daughter of the late Michael Armstrong, King Street, Cork.

On November 29th, at Shanghai, GEORGE GALLOWAY WALLACE to MIRIAM STEAD.

On December 1st, at Shanghai, ALFRED C. CLEAR, to ETTA GRAY.

DEATHS.

On November 28th, at Shanghai, ETHEL LOUISE (DOLLY) the wife of Francis Schwyzer, aged 27 years.

On November 28th, at Shanghai, CHARLOTTE NEUBOURG, aged 21 years.

On December 4th at 11 p.m., Mr. T. SAKATA, sub-manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of November 6th arrived per the ss. *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, on Tuesday, the 4th instant; and the French Mail of November 9th arrived, per the ss. *Yarra* to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Civil administration was inaugurated at Newchwang on the 1st inst.

The *Protector* has begun salvage operations in connection with the German steamer *Petrarch*.

The *Hazel Dollar* is discharging a full cargo of choice wheat in Junk Bay for the Hongkong Milling Company.

Major Pritchard is to be entertained to a farewell dinner by the members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on the 18th inst.

Considerable progress has been made with the raising of the sunken steamer *Kwongchow*, which has now been lifted some distance from the bottom.

The Waiwupu has obtained the permission of the Throne to draw Tls 180,000 from the Treasury of the Tientsin Customs' Taotai for the purpose of building the new offices of that Ministry.

It is stated that H.E. Viceroy Chou Fu has given instructions to instal wireless telegraph stations in Canton, Whampao and the forts at Humen (Bocca Tigris) at the entrance to the Canton River.

Viceroy Shum is still at Shanghai, under medical care, it is stated. It is also added that he is reluctant to face an audience at Peking, and wants to go direct to his new post, after a few months' holiday.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce at Shanghai is troubled by the risk to life involved by the foreign introduction of electric trams. They have asked the Taotai to take steps to minimise the danger.

A local riot has taken place at Pinghsiang in the Kiangsi provice. The German engineers employed at the Chinese mines retired to Siangtan, afterwards proceeding to Changsha. The Governor of Nanchang is sending troops to quell the outbreak.

In reply to a letter from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, the Shanghai Chamber has agreed to recommend another memorial to the Diplomatic Corps at Peking, in connection with currency reform, on lines similar to those sent in 1903 and 1904.

It is reported that a preliminary survey has been made of the French torpedo boat destroyer *Froude*, but this survey has not yet been made public. The Dock Co. are said to be preparing a tender for repairs, but it is doubtful whether the cost of these will not prohibit the vessel being again made seaworthy.

The high dollar and increased price of commodities in Hanoi has induced a number of French residents to form a co-operative bakery.

On November 23rd Mr. Asakawa, the Japanese Minister to Mexico, telegraphed to the Foreign Office in Tokyo, stating that the Mexican Government—with a view to checking the export of silver due to the advance in price—had adopted a law imposing a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* on the export of Mexican dollars. The law came into force on November 19th.

This is from the anti-opium journal *Friend of China*:—"The Chinese authorities have recently proposed to tax the home-grown drug at half the rate of the Indian drug, on the ground of its milder properties. No sound and sufficient answer has been attempted to their proposal; and the fact upon which it is based is incontrovertible. The Chinese drug is a less deadly instrument of ruin."

A Seoul message states that the Korean Finance Department has resolved to dispatch officials into various provinces to collect taxes. When this is done it is maintained that it will be impossible for local authorities to extort additional sums by "squeezing," and for this reason, it is said, the Governors of districts in Chyolla Province are inciting the people to oppose the revenue officials in every possible way.

The telephone service was introduced into Japan in 1890, and it has rapidly and steadily developed, there being at the present time throughout Japan 35 telephone exchange offices, 201 call offices and 141 automatic telephone boxes, while subscribers number 35,704 and over 30,000 more intending subscribers are awaiting their turn to be connected. The length of the telephone lines thoughout Japan is 34,705 miles.

When the police raided the servants' quarters at Queen's Buildings on December 7th with the view of capturing gamblers, their appearance was the signal for a stampede on the part of the lift boys and servants. Many escaped in the darkness and one lift boy who sought to evade arrest by leaping from a window on the third story lost his life. He alighted on his head and fractured his skull, dying a few hours later in the hospital.

It is reported from Peking that H.E. Chang Kêng, Tartar General of Ili, Northern Chinese Turkestan, has asked permission from the Throne to borrow at the usual business rate of interest the sum of Tls. 260,000 from the Hupu Bank (Revenue Bank) which he requires for the purchase of a complete cotton spinning and weaving plant. His Excellency intends to star his mill in the city of Turfan, situated not far south of Tibua (Urumtsi), the capital of Chinese Turkestan.

A landslip occurred on Dec. 6th at the site for the new power station for the Electric Light Company, at Wanchai, as a result of which three men were killed. About a dozen coolies were employed cutting the face of the hillside, when without warning, a mass of earth weighing three or four tons, fell and buried most of the men. Those who escaped promptly went to the rescue of their comrades and succeeded in liberating them all, but not before three of the entombed men had been smothered. The others were uninjured.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES AND GERMAN VIEWS.

(*Daily Press*, 1st December.)

An article on British industries in the *Zukunft* of October 13th seems to deserve attention, for although parts of it may be overdrawn, it contains truths which manufacturers in England would do well to lay to heart. The final conclusion the writer arrives at will, however, hardly be acquiesced in by anybody at home or abroad. The British manufacturing industry is, he says, the oldest of modern times and up to within the last thirty years reigned supreme. Whoever erected a factory in Germany, France, the United States or elsewhere, had to obtain the plant and machinery from England. The causes of her predominance lay in the great mineral riches of the country, her wealth, her extensive home trade, the intelligence of her people and the easy access to foreign markets. The trade of Great Britain continues to expand, but, compared with the unprecedented development of that of Germany and the United States, at a very slow pace. Since the cessation of the wars which for centuries made Germany the battlefield of nations and drained her resources, the purchasing power of the people has gradually increased, giving a stimulus to industry; they have accumulated capital until at the present time they have become independent of English money, which they no longer require for the building of railways, waterworks, &c. In America things took pretty much the same course. With the increase of wealth and a steadily growing demand for home consumption, technical knowledge, following closely in the wake of scientific research and discoveries, made rapid progress and branching out into numerous different channels rendered specialisation more and more necessary. The devising of new and improved methods of manufacture on scientific bases became a special study, for which an enormous apparatus was required. To this the English people, who prefer to turn their great intellectual powers to what lies within their immediate ken, never took kindly. A healthy race and proud of their muscular strength they are fond of work but will not sacrifice everything to it; they demand short hours, a weekly half-holiday, games and a certain amount of country life. The German on the other hand loves his work above everything, is insatiable of knowledge and when his energies begin to flag, his innate conscientiousness steps in urging him on to renewed efforts. Then again the English, owing to their long experience and glorious traditions in the manufacturing business, have acquired a habit of extreme conservatism in their ideas. They are not easily persuaded to make experiments, and hesitate before adopting new methods, asking "Will it pay?" until they find out that they are being left behind in the race; whereas the American is attracted by the risk a novelty may present. He rushes into new enterprizes, knowing full well that, if one out of a hundred turns out a success, he will be repaid a thousandfold. Even the more careful German is nowadays prompt in giving new inventions and new methods a trial, if, on mature reflection, he considers that they are likely to prove advantageous—even if there be as yet no mathematical certainty of success, a certainty which in fact is rarely attained until too late. He has become sufficiently Americanized not to be deterred by big figures, the rapid expansion of banking enterprize and the joint stock system having widened his horizon.

There can be no doubt that British manufacturers are heavily handicapped by the trade unions, who have made them their obedient servants, prescribing the number and kind of workpeople to be employed, the wages to be paid, and what piece work may be done and at what rates, and permitting or inhibiting labour-saving machines at their pleasure. But after all the want of thorough scientific training of masters and men is the chief cause of the slow progress of British industry at the present moment. There are few works up-to-date in England and hardly any of those vast organisations such as exist in the United States and Germany which combine all elementary industries for the purpose of uniting under one management the different branches required to produce the finished article. The textile industries alone continue to maintain the lead, but more from commercial than technical causes. The great coal mines are worked on very primitive lines; the metallurgical establishment will not stand comparison with those of America or Germany, although, or perhaps because, the economic conditions are so much more favourable. The chemical trade has likewise been left far behind, English science not having succeeded in turning the endless ramifications of this black art into a common technical channel nor been able to supply the army of scientifically trained assistants which issues annually from the universities and technical high schools of the fatherland. Another case in point is electrical engineering. When this industry, in laying the foundations of which British physicists so eminently distinguished themselves, began to become a trade, it was mostly in the hands of empiricists, many of whom by boldly groping in the dark as it were often forestalled the results of scientific research. For a time England kept pace with the United States, but when practical experience no longer sufficed and scientific methods were being introduced and perfected, she fell back, although her scientists have continued to render most valuable assistance in research work. Some of the most important factories passed into the hands of foreign capitalists, but for the reasons mentioned above, the trade remained confined to the home markets, not being able to meet foreign competition abroad.

It may be safely asserted that the English people with their practical minds are quite aware of the position they hold in the international race; the ill-feeling towards Germany which unimportant political incidents have served to increase, has its real origin in the rivalry of workshop and arsenal. The causes however of her being left behind are of too serious a nature and too deeply seated to be easily removed so long as British industries continue to be carried on the same economic and intellectual lines. A radical change of methods is the only effectual way for them to retrieve their position. Instead, however, other means have been tried; the first measure was the "Made in Germany" act, which is now generally admitted to have been a great mistake, as it showed buyers abroad where to go for their goods. Then an appeal was made to British patriotism and it has become a rule with government and municipal bodies on receiving tenders for the supply of goods, to give the preference to their own countrymen, although offers from foreign makers may be more advantageous. But all this has failed to give the British manufacturer the help he needs, and it seems no longer doubtful (to the *Zukunft*) that, though the present government may be able to put off the evil hour, the next will be compelled to abandon the glorious system of free trade, to which Great Britain owes so much of her greatness, and to introduce protection. The English have always shown themselves to be the best judges of what is conducive to the advancement of their interests, but we may be pardoned, our contemporary goes on, if we venture to predict what will be the consequences of such a policy, as Germany is seriously concerned in the matter. It is hardly probable that the erection of works on German lines will pay in the long run, for a system of protection cannot be long-lived in England. A young plant may benefit by being kept under glass but a full-grown forest tree would sicken and die. The British manufacturing trade will never reconquer foreign markets under protective laws, for it is the fight and struggle for supremacy that keeps the technical faculties fresh and progressive. If England, trusting to protection, does not keep pace with other countries, her colonies will no longer take her goods, which may eventually lead to serious complications. Above all, commercial predominance demands a free exchange of commodities, without which Great Britain cannot expect to retain the monopoly of the trade of the world and her proud position as the centre of it. But can she afford to sacrifice her industries to this? Certainly, for her geographical, economic and civilizing mission is, in our opinion, to "rule the waves" and to be the Rialto of the world. Her agricultural interests have already been sacrificed and her industries must follow of a necessity, but in adhering to her true vocation England will higher than ever before. There are people of restricted views who look upon Great Britain in the light only of a small island, and they fail to understand that the island kingdom is the exchange and mart of the world and the seat of Government of over one third of the inhabited globe. Whether a little hammering, forging and spinning goes on in corners of this vast edifice is of small consequence. England derives her means of subsistence from ruling and protecting others, whilst the remainder, like mechanics and artisans, live by the work of their hands. It is an interesting commentary on Dr. SCHMIDT'S opinions previously reviewed.

ARE AMERICAN TREATIES WORTHLESS?

(*Daily Press*, December 3rd.)

The United States of America are united by a system more ingeniously complicated than many non-Americans are aware of; and the fact that the unity is not so actual as the grandiloquent title would imply has never been made so apparent as by the recent Japanese troubles at San Francisco. The outside world has always had some idea that between East and West and North and South of such a vast country there were barriers of sentiment and feeling, that occasionally threatened to make "the United States" a misnomer; but it has been left to "An American Exile," in a letter in the *Times*, to draw attention to a very weak spot in the Constitution. After reading this letter, we are tempted to offer the explanation that the American Government includes a trinity of non-authoritative authorities—the Executive (a President who cannot execute)—the Legislative (whose laws, when unpopular, don't count)—and the Judicial, (which is in many respects injudicious). To select the President, each State appoints a number of electors, equal to the number of its Senators

and Representatives (who cannot be electors) and they meet at the State capital and vote by ballot. The ballots are sent to Washington, and opened by the Senatorial President in presence of Congress. But even such a thoroughly representative election, even in the case of a strong man like President ROOSEVELT, leaves the elected comparatively helpless under certain circumstances. The laws of the State seem to be about as mighty as the Law of the states, if "An American Exile" be a trustworthy witness. He says the "only possible answer" of the Federal Government to any demand by another Power (in this instance Japan) for the observance of its treaty obligations "is an admission of the obligations and an avowal of its inability to enforce them". The enforcement of them, in the case of such a stubborn State as California, "implies the coercion of a sovereign State". Such a task, says this writer, is not to be lightly undertaken by any President. "He may coax. He may not coerce. Or if he coerces, it can only be by some indirect process of law, and not at all by the naked use of the central authority. If California proved stubborn, she cannot be brought to reason otherwise than by arms. And that is civil war". This is amazing. We should have thought it was only rebellion and to be treated as such. Else what is the worth of any treaty with the central Government? If that is the admitted state of things, a treaty with Washington is of no more practical use than a disarmament proposal emanating from the Hague or St. Petersburg. The "sovereign state of California" could even declare war against China or Japan—a thing which, judging from its recent press utterances, would not be too foolish for some of its leaders, or misleaders. The writer of the letter to the *Times* says:

"You speak of California as intrenched behind the State rights conferred by the Constitution. State right is not the phrase an American would employ. Still less would he speak of State rights as conferred by the Constitution. If they had been conferred they could be withdrawn, and so a way out might be found. But it was not the Constitution which conferred rights upon the States; it was the States, the original thirteen in 1787, which surrendered certain rights inherent in each as a sovereign State, and conferred them upon the Federal Government. Those which were not surrendered were retained And each State of later birth has in this respect the rights of the original thirteen. California is as good as Massachusetts. It is perfectly true that a treaty is the supreme law of the land. But that only brings us back to the question—How is it to be enforced? The machinery is not adequate. The Supreme Court of the United States, in its best days when Marshall was Chief Justice, delivered a judgment which the then President, Andrew Jackson, disapproved. "Well," said the President, "John Marshall has told us what he thinks the law is. Now let him carry it out." And even if a case against the San Francisco authorities were taken into a Federal Court and a decree obtained, the question of giving effect to that decree would remain a question. In the last resort, there is nothing but force. With a United States marshall on one side and the State of California on the other, we come back again to a state of civil war."

This extract alone goes some way to warrant our definition of the American Government as a trinity of non-authoritative authorities, and to suggest the addition of some forty-five other authorities, upon whom there is no better check than war, civil war. The author of it points out that in response to Italy's complaint of the lynching of eleven men of the Mafia, in New Orleans, the Government at Washington pleaded "the impossibility of compelling the State [of Louisiana] to give redress". He goes on:

"The States of the Union have no foreign relations. Louisiana has none. California has none. Foreign relations are part of those sovereign powers which each State has surrendered to the general Government. Our Government did not and could not hold itself responsible for the acts of New Orleans, nor does it for those of San Francisco. It regrets them. Whether it can do much more than regret is doubtful."

This, it is evident, is a very awkward state of things, and the governments of China and of Japan are most intimately concerned in having it cleared up. Polite regrets will not satisfy either for breaches of treaty, and in the case of both, such breaches are as probable as possible—in fact, they have already been made. It is not fair to them, or to the rest of the world, if such a state of things exists. It means that the Executive Government cannot compel its components to do right, but that it stands in the way of retribution if they do wrong. Such a condition of affairs is unthinkable, and we can only assume that "An American Exile" has misread it. An immediate test, more to the point than the Louisiana case, is inevitable. Japan's claims are admitted; it remains to be seen how they are to be met.

EVIDENCE IN OFFICIAL LETTERS.

(*Daily Press*, 4th December.)

In calling attention to the discussion in one of to-day's law reports, concerning the admissibility of "confidential" correspondence as evidence, we do not make any suggestion whatever with regard to the merits or possibilities of the particular case; but in the interest of pure justice, and arguing on general principles, we would record our opinion that in refusing to admit all official correspondence headed "confidential," the Full Court has set up a precedent to be regarded as dangerous. Sir HENRY BERKELEY, representing the Crown, objects to Mr. SLADE reading a confidential communication from an officer of the Government to the General Officer commanding the Troops, at first apparently on the ground that it is State property, but later, in reply to the plea that the recipient had consented, remarking that such a letter is inadmissible "when it is headed confidential." Its description as a "State document" is rather awe-inspiring, but we can readily conceive circumstances in which "a confidential communication between officials" might be material evidence the suppression of which would be most unjust. In this case Mr. SLADE contends that a direct official offer was made on which action was taken, and the CHIEF JUSTICE makes the sweeping reply, "If it is covered by the word 'confidential,' you cannot" [act on it]. Are we to assume that any sub-head of an official department has the power, by using the word "confidential," to (say) offer to compound a felony, and the incident be ignored by the law? Or should the Director of Public Works make a confidential offer to a land owner for property required to be resumed, may not that offer be reported in any subsequent arbitration? Or take another hypothetical example, the possibility of which is suggested by recent events. A government official guilty of corrupt practices writes confidentially to a colleague who is anxious to have the service purified. Is such a confidential communication between officials, containing, it may be, vital testimony for either side, to be refused as inadmissible? But as between the Government and a private citizen, there may be all sorts of possibilities of injustice, if, as Mr. SLADE phrased it, the Crown may "go back" on its confidential offers. The assumption is that the Crown does not want to be unjust, but the future risk lies in the possibly misplaced zeal of some one of its servants. Some little time ago we had an object lesson in which justice, determined on "the whole truth", published a letter marked confidential, and that even without that endorsement was a letter patently requiring confidential treatment. So important is justice, so absolutely necessary "the whole truth", that the deepest sentiment must give way to it. But the CHIEF JUSTICE indicates, with the approval of the Full Court, that in future cases there is a real possibility of "the whole truth" being withheld, if it should happen that some official, writing to a colleague, has had the forethought to mark his script "confidential". We have neither right nor qualification to lay down the law, but it seems obvious to us that this decision contains potentialities which cannot be contemplated without uneasiness. The same shibboleth has recently been causing trouble on the Sanitary Board, and it seems desirable that the Government should take steps to make less sweeping, less wholesale and less dangerous what is doubtless, within limits, an indispensible precaution. With the law as yesterday enunciated, the public can hardly feel altogether satisfied.

EUROPEAN HEN AND ASIATIC DUCKLINGS.

(*Daily Press*, 5th December.)

Qui *s'excuse s'accuse* is an old French proverb founded on universal experience, and there is no doubt that the recent speech of Prince VON BUELOW, while eminently satisfactory with regard to the prospects of European peace in the near future, is also eminently suggestive that in the past his efforts in that direction were not so well directed as now he would wish them to appear. The past is, however, behind us, and we certainly are not disposed to recall it, and in the interests of the world at large it is well to permit bygones to be bygones. The past policy of Germany was not successful in disuniting the western Powers, and we are pleased to see that Germany herself has been able to appreciate the fact that in the unity of the western Powers lies the best hope for the preservation of a lasting European peace. It is undoubtedly a new departure in European politics that France and Spain jointly should desire to restore to comparative order the distressed Sultanate of Morocco; it is an unheard of thing that they should do this with the tacit approval of all Europe and with the openly expressed good will of Great Britain. Still it must be confessed that it is but an experiment, but experiment as it undoubtedly is, it is indicative of the improved relations of the home Powers, and in itself offers one of the strongest auguries for the future peace of the Continent. If possible, more satisfactory still is the assurance given by Prince VON BUELOW that the very consistent rumours which have from time to time been whispered in Europe as to the probable interference of Germany in Poland in the interest of the Government of Russia are entirely without foundation. It is true that any such interference would be intensely unpopular in Germany at large, but indications were not wanting that a strong and united party, even if few

in point of number, were in view of the supposed dynastic interests of the Empire, prepared to go even to so extreme a limit; and the disavowal of any such intention by the present Imperial Chancellor will certainly be hailed with not less satisfaction in Germany itself than in Europe at large. It is natural and proper that Germany should watch with intense interest the upheaval going on on her very frontiers, and should take every legitimate means of preventing the conflagration spreading to her own territories; but one of the lessons most plainly to be read in the history of the past two centuries is the folly, if not the wickedness, of armed intervention between rulers and people, unless the interfering state be prepared from the beginning to assume itself all the responsibilities of government. The mere propping up of a falling edifice is of all architectural works the most unsatisfactory to an able architect, and few who have attained eminence in their profession will willingly undertake so damaging a responsibility. The propping up of a decaying government is, if possible, a still more serious undertaking which has proved in too many instances the grave of political reputations. Europe will be pleased to hear of the good understanding existing between Germany and the Austro-Hungarian monarchy; it would, however, be better pleased to see this good understanding expressed in some more tangible form than mere words. The spirit of BISMARCK still lingers unpleasantly near, and though the recent revelations of Prince HOHENLOHE's Memoirs have done something in showing how dead in other respects is the policy of that statesman, and though Russia as a disturbing influence is, at all events temporarily, eclipsed, all Europe would breathe more freely were it able to lay to rest its suspicions on this subject. But if we are justified in looking with an enhanced feeling of confidence on the European horizon it is unfortunately the case that when we turn our eyes eastwards the prospect is by no means so clear, and here we may note at the beginning we have no reflection whatever to cast on Germany, whose interests we may add are identical with our own. However we look at it there is an unpleasant feeling in the magnetic field, and a sense that it is overcharged with elements of repulsion. Great Britain has persistently urged on China the necessity of advance, did she desire to recover her lost place amongst the nations; Britain has done more, for it has actively aided China in the process by material as well as moral assistance. It has hailed with pleasure Japan's entrance into the comity of nations, and has placed her in a position of eminence alongside itself. In none of these things has Britain been actuated by any sentimental motives, nor has it attempted to pose as if impelled by any mere philanthropic motives, or to raise itself on a pinnacle of goodness beyond other nations. Knowing how rare in the ordinary intercourse of nations is the feeling of gratitude or anything approaching to thankfulness it has not expected any return of this nature, and has been quite content to take things as they came. Britain did, however, expect that as a return for opening to the Far East the material benefits of its commerce and culture, and sharing with it its own home privileges without let or hindrance, it should be placed on similar terms, and that as it had broken down the last barriers to intercourse with the West, it should meet with a similar willingness on the part of the East to meet on equal terms. East Asia has done Britain the high compliment of accepting its offers; has so far as lay in her power remodelled her own institutions on lines directly copied from the West. It has provided itself with armies and navies the details and organisation of which to the minutest detail have been taken from Europe. Japan has closely imitated in her political institutions the political systems of Europe, and China has sent recently a high commission to British shores to learn the art of governing her millions with greater profit to the empire, and greater happiness to themselves, and this commission was received with open arms, and permitted to discover innermost secrets of policy. Britain has done all this, not in the hope of any private reward, but to promote the general interests of the world at large, and with its share in those interests it was content to wait for its own profit and advantage. Now it is curious to observe how one-sided the confidence has been. For it all Britain has obtained not trust, not friendship, but growing alienation and ill-feeling. Yet these people who would now turn to Britain the cold shoulder, who by words and deeds daily inform the British that in their heart of hearts they dislike them and if they could would despise them, are the very people who have done them the unconscious compliment of attempting without any pressure or persuasion to reform on the models freely presented to them the whole fabric of their institutions, and even their private lives. Since 1858, when Lord ELGIN sailed on a friendly mission into the Gulf of Tokyo, Japan has entirely changed her institutions and her mode of government; convinced of the superiority of those prevailing in the West she has undisguisedly remodelled her own on similar lines, and in the process without any reserve whatever she has been helped on and encouraged. So completely has she done this that were a visitor from another world who had seen her in 1858 to re-enter now on the scene, except in her language and a few of her older temples, still remaining as records of the past, he would fail to recognise that he stood on the same ground. To the credit of Japan she has done this thoroughly, and apparently without a reserve. No country in the history of the world has ever effected such a change within the compass of a mere half-century. And now Europe, having done its missionary work, apparently has to face the outlook of most altruists. It feels much like a hen whose duckling brood is swimming off to independence.

FOREIGN STOCK IN CHINESE SHOPS.

(*Daily Press*, December 6th.)

It is rarely safe to argue on the "in one sec all" adage, and particularly so with regard to a vast country like China. Some superficial observer in some corner of the Empire writes a glowing letter about the symptoms of what he regards as the civilization of the Chinese, and he has his imitators, and then back from Europe come the newspapers, full of comments able enough and sound enough if their foundation had been better. Still, there is a good deal of excuse for these somewhat premature trumpetings of the awakening of China, of the coming of the Oriental, and almost, we might say, of the apotheosis of the Asiatic. The so-called unchanging East is as mutable, humanly speaking, as any other centre of society; and there is a general opinion among residents of any standing that things to-day are scarcely recognisable in the most truthful picture of ten years ago. One noticeable feature is the avidity with which Chinese take up land wherever a collection of foreigners settles. The foreigner seems flattered, if we say that his mere neighbourhood is considered to afford protection from official squeeze; but there are others who explain it otherwise, who say they rush to take up the land to prevent the hated alien getting it. Both statements are probably a little too extreme. It is not at all improbable that the phenomenon is simply caused by the quite natural and characteristic desire of the Chinaman to turn an honest tael or two. Another change, however, that the last decade has witnessed, is observable in many towns where the foreigners consist of only a missionary or two, for whose benefit it has certainly not come about. This is in reference to the increase of business indicated by the constant opening of new shops everywhere, and the remarkable additions to and variations in their stock-in-trade. A few years ago, certainly not more than a decade, the traveller would have hailed as a rare surprise the appearance in a Chinese shop of some obviously foreign articles. We are speaking, of course, of inland towns and places, not of long established treaty ports. The smell of kerosene, or the sight of its homely can, might have reminded him that the West was knocking at the door of the East, but he certainly could not then, as he may now, feast his eyes on foreign haberdashery, clocks and watches, caps and hats, foreign boots and shoes, and even "stick-up" collars, to say nothing of socks and "suspenders". A northern contemporary notes that comparatively few Chinese gentlemen wear Chinese socks, now that the foreign kinds are so accessible and cheap, and look more showy. For such things it is easy to see a market, but if the new Chinese shops follow the example of their Japanese prototypes, we shall have to wonder what becomes of the importations. Only a few months after the opening of a certain Japanese town (Kofu, previously without railway connection) whole rows of semi-foreign shops, containing purely foreign goods, were to be seen and entered. The wonder naturally arises, whether all the sewing machines, and bedsteads, and bicycles, the shaving tackle and cooking utensils, and the felt hats of fashion Early Victorian are not still in stock, unsold and unsaleable. In China it seems safe to conclude, from experience, that there was a proper likelihood of a demand for these new supplies, before the shrewd men who are opening these up country stores imported them. It is to be hoped they all go off well and give satisfaction.

UNPRINCIPLED ABBREVIATION.

(*Daily Press*, December 7th.)

Abbreviations are such a recognized feature of daily life nowadays, even in the most select journalistic circles, where men are proud to call themselves M.J.I, and still more so among business men, that we were somewhat surprised recently when a critic, for whose opinion we have considerable respect, suggested that it is a fault to refer constantly to an important department of the Colonial Government as the P.W.D. Our only defence at the time was that this abbreviated form was constantly employed officially, and we gave no further thought to the matter. This week the receipt of a copy of the *Singapore Free Press* with a long article on the subject of abbreviations generally has suggested that perhaps it affords more interest than might be supposed. According to our contemporary, "the question of how far it is permissible to use abbreviations has vexed the minds of many

righteous. A very learned bishop, for instance, objects strongly to receiving a letter dated '27 Nov. '06' on the ground that it is discourteous. 'I am' he said 'thoroughly against abbreviations on principle and thoroughly dislike them. I cannot understand even the busy man writing '06, any more than I can tolerate his talking of nineteen one. I am persuaded abbreviations have an unwholesome effect on men's minds. It would not inconvenience anyone if the full and proper outlines were made.'" Men who consider themselves busier than the busiest of bishops will call this distinctly unreasonable, and we so regard it; but the first question open for serious argument is the one suggested by the bishop's wholesale denunciation. Are abbreviations legitimate, or are they not? When we come to necessary compromises, we arrive at mere questions of taste, which cannot be argued reasonably; and we quite recognise that most people are in the inconsistent position, if they object to some, of countenancing others. The Bishop would be shocked, doubtless, to have it pointed out that there are abbreviations in his own criticism. In the passage quoted, the element of abbreviation has even given room for ambiguity, though we know what he means when he writes "I cannot understand even the busy man writing '06". That is a condensed or abbreviated way of stating that it is impossible for him to appreciate the object of or advantage to the busy man who writes '06 for 1906; and the bishop is quite in error in supposing that he objects to the principle of abbreviation. Even for a bishop with much leisure it is a necessary principle, and all he really objects to is the form in which the principle occasionally manifests itself. A bishop, notwithstanding his obligation to be meek and lowly, occupies a certain pedestal of dignity; and it is not difficult to see that the root grievance of this particular bishop was that some of his correspondents were not taking the trouble to address him with the painstaking respect to which he considered himself entitled. "Nov. 27 '06, Dear Bishop, &c." certainly does not look so respectful as "In the year of our Lord one thousand, &c. May it please your Lordship, &c." We wonder if His Lordship writes *et cæteræ*, etc., or &c; and if he never wrote A.D. for Anno Domini, or Oxon for Oxoniensis. Who could believe him if he averred his own absolute consistency? It is for us quite certain that no speaker or writer of any known language has the right to object "on principle", any more than he has the right to object to rain falling or children crying. After which we are ready to admit that we have our prejudices and predilections. Under temptation greater than may be understood, we conscientiously strive to avoid contractions like advt., or govt., but illogically or not, we cling to P.W.D. instead of Department of Public Works. By the way, in India it is always written D.P.W. Our contemporary makes a fine retort to the Bishop, which is so obvious that it might easily have been overlooked. "Why does not the Bishop, if he is logical in spite of theology, object to Mr. for Master or Mister?" Or, we may add, for Monsieur or Monseigneur, to go back to its probable origin? His spiritual chiefs sign themselves "Randall Cantuar." and "Willelm: Ebor.", the latter a dual abbreviation; and in sporting parlance it is a million to a hayseed that our bishop who is "thoroughly against abbreviations on principle" likes to see the D.D. after his name. Of him, *quant. suff.*; to belabour him further would be, as we hope these abbreviations are not, *infra dig.* Everybody accepts abbreviations like H.R.H., K.C.M.G., P. & O., and Y.M.C.A., even while in the act of objecting to O.K. and similar flippancies, and we sympathise with their illogicality. Business men would probably strenuously defend "and/or", though it is hideously unliterary, and for similar reasons we uphold for local consumption such useful and well-understood abbreviations as P.W.D., P.C.M.O., A.D.C., and the like.

ANTI-OPIUM UNREASON.

(Daily Press, December 8th.)

The organ of the Anti-opium Society, the *Friend of China*, from which we extracted the remarkable paragraph published yesterday, is entitled not inappropriately, but the contents generally of the last number suggest the need of a sub-title like the *Enemy of India* or the *Scorner of all Things British*. China's proposal to give preferential treatment to the native-grown drug has its entire and unqualified approval, because it is incontrovertible, it says, that Chinese opium is less injurious than Indian opium. The same number insists that it is the duty of the British people to repay China the indemnities received after the "opium wars", to return to China an amount equal to what the Chinese have spent on foreign opium, and to recoup China the expenses she was put to in fighting the foreign devil. This strikes us as a notable example of an inch given and an ell taken. The anti-opium people seem to be in the frame of mind of the beggar who was placed on horseback. No argument is even listened to by such people, whose extravagance is no more to be marvelled at than the tolerance with which the public listen to them. Take this marvellous paragraph which we reproduced in yesterday's issue without comment. 'The same people who have painted the horrors of thousands and thousands of Chinese degraded and dying because using opium now assert emphatically that Chinese opium is not half as injurious as Indian. We have previously pointed out the small proportions to which Indian imports have dwindled, and everyone knows how much dearer it is than the native product. It looks then as if either the pictures of the evil results in China were overdrawn, or that the masses are actually able to afford the high priced drug from India. Those who use the Indian drug must obviously be using it in moderation, if only on account of its scarcity and dearness. The *Friend of China* might just as well constitute itself a champion of "penny-cabbage" cigars, because they are less strong than high-priced Havanas. Its present position with regard to opium is much the same as if it had elaborated and exaggerated the evil results of excessive smoking of cheap tobacco on the masses at Home, and then, pointing out that the weeds smoked by the KING and other moderate and sensible smokers are far stronger, had clamoured for the stoppage of their importation. "W. F." in the *Pall Mall Gazette* has pointed out that only nine-and-a-half piculs out of every hundred piculs of opium used in China are from India. There is a manifest discrepancy between the frightful stories of our moral responsibility in China and the statement of our financial share in the traffic. We do not doubt that China is sincere in wishing to exclude Indian opium, but it is absurd to suggest that any check will be attempted on the native source of revenue. The *Friend of India* writers have themselves let the cat out of the bag. So far as all these wonderful official edicts and interdicts are concerned, the Chinese authorities can easily, as a contemporary has put it, manufacture piles of that appropriate kind of evidence. So far as the tales of evil done are concerned, Sir HENRY BLAKE recently pinned down one exaggerator neatly. He said:

"There is one observation I wish to make with reference to this matter. I may tell you I have been making enquiries about it, and as to the anxiety to prevent the use of opium merely because it is opium, I must say I am entirely averse to proposing any measure that would interfere with the freedom of any man unless there is a necessity shown for it. The hon. member has stated that the opium traffic is ruining hundreds or probably thousands of families—at least I understood him to say that. There is nobody who feels more than I do or is more alive to the disastrous effects of opium smoking, but, as I said two or three months ago, I go upon the principle of asking the Principal Medical Officer or someone else in his department how many people have been treated for the consequences produced by opium, and the result is that within the last three years the Medical Department of this island, having obtained returns from all the hospitals, only treated two or three people for effects that could be attributed to opium. I think that is very satisfactory, and I am sure it is a return that will be satisfactory to the hon. member, and while I would be in entire sympathy with anything that would prevent the excessive use of opium, I am not prepared to accept the view that because certain people in certain countries use opium in a certain way and suffer severely from it, therefore we should prevent the use of opium by the Singhalese who may have increased the use of it of late, but about whom the report of the Principal Medical Officer is that the use of opium by them is beneficial when it is used as a remedy for rheumatism and as a prophylactic for malaria, while he was unable to say that the use of opium, as far as he could find had proved injurious to the community. That is the position at present. As far as I am concerned, I will never interfere with the liberty of the people except to the extent that it is shown to be necessary for their welfare."

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

No one will deny that St. Andrew's Ball in Hongkong connotes success. It invariably means a large and brilliant gathering, unrivalled in the Far East, and it invariably means genuine pleasure to the many who attend it. Last night's event was no exception to the long list of successes which the records of St. Andrew's Society of Hongkong can show, and, while recognising degrees of success in the balls which have been held in commemoration of Scotland's patron saint, the superlative degree must be employed in describing the gathering of yesterday. Special interest was taken in the ball this year inasmuch as it was the first of the season, and it must have afforded gratification to the hard working committee to realise that there was no falling off in its popularity. All classes of the community were united in the desire to share in the pleasures of the evening, and, while the sons and daughters of Scotia outnumbered any other section, the gathering partook of that cosmopolitan character which distinguishes all large assemblies in Hongkong. As has been remarked before, St Andrew's Day is observed to a greater extent out of Scotland than in it. Scots at home never "fash" themselves about commemorating the 30th November, but immediately they leave their native land they seem to take advantage of all the opportunities for "celebrating" that the calendar affords them and foregather as frequently as they can. This patriotism is perhaps not so apparent in Hongkong as in smaller communities, but though less expressive here it exists none the less, and on an occasion like last night the men and women from "north o' the weed" are wont to greet each other in the Doric and to recall olden times as they gaze on familiar place names in the homeland.

The decorations were on an extensive scale. Conceived with artistic taste, they were carried out with no little skill. Plants added to the beauty of the entrance, the pillars being festooned with greenery, while the stairway

lost its usual appearance amid a wealth of foliage. A huge mirror faced the stairway, and reflected in it were the lion rampant shield opposite, surmounted by a crown, and backed with swords, and the interlaced flags on the wall behind. Flanking the mirror were shields bearing St. Andrew's crosses and thistles. Practically the whole landing was given over to a mass of greenery, out of which showed a maxim gun at each corner, while varied colored electric lights shed a warm glow over all. Bunting and shields embellished the walls, and in the brilliant light the scene was decidedly picturesque. Naturally it was in St. Andrew's Hall where the decorations were more particularly Scotch. Facing the entrance was a gigantic floral St. Andrew's cross between the arms of which were placed portraits of Mary Queen of Scots, John Knox, Robert Burns, and Sir Walter Scott, the centre being occupied with a shield bearing the greeting "Chief Hough and Hongkong Scots greet ye" and "Hamilton for ever." The latter doubtless alludes to the town in Scotland where Mr. Hough first saw the light. On the wall opposite was suspended the banner of the society, framed with leaves. Another compliment to the President of the Society was the Hamilton crest, while round the walls were hung shields bearing the arms of notable families in Scotland. Flags were intertwined behind these shields, and on the front of the flower boxes were Scottish place names. These shields bearing the arms of Scottish clans and distinguished houses, with the place names, ran through the entire scheme of decoration. If one were inclined to criticise one would perhaps ask why Highland names should have been allowed to preponderate. Why should the Lowlanders have received such scant consideration? Where were the Douglases, where were the famous borderers, Scotts, Johnstones, Armstrongs, Jardines and others? Perhaps the Decoration Committee, the composition of which does not seem aggressively Celtic, will in the words of the National Bard, "tak a thocht an' mend." Again, those responsible might supervise the native artist, so that well-known names should not appear in almost unrecognisable form. Who would suspect for instance that "Macprefson" represented the name of the clan whose founder nearly spoiled the Flood "by drinking all ta water," or that "Drommord" indicated the famous Perthshire family. Fortunately, these things are not taken seriously nowadays, and the eccentricities of the native artist only served to provoke a smile. In St. George's Hall, the distinguishing feature was the large picture of Queen Victoria, while shields and bunting added to the picturesqueness of the interior. The orchestra was artistically treated with plants, and the verandah was protected with bunting and adorned with shields. The adjoining rooms were also effectively decorated. The theatre, which did duty as supper room, was embellished in a most artistic manner. The horse shoe shaped table on the platform had pretty environs, not the least being the life-sized painting of St. Andrew, the work of Mr. Duncan, of Kowloon Dock, while round the front of the gallery were shields bearing Scottish emblems—St. Andrew's cross, lion rampant, and thistle—crossed battle axes being hung behind each. Higher up were another series of shields, backed with flags, while spears, connected with rope, added a temporary height to the gallery. Facing the platform, on the gallery wall, were the words "Bonnie Scotland." The tables were beautifully laid, and altogether a prettier supper room could not have been wished for. The rooms were arranged as before.

Mr. W. Armstrong, the hon. secretary, discharged the exacting duties of his office in a praiseworthy manner, and was ably assisted by a number of committees. They were: General Committee: Mr. T. F. Hough, President; Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Vice-President; Messrs. David Wood, W. Ramsay, W. Wilson, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, and Mr. Murray Stewart, Committee; Mr. A. S. Fraser, Acting Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. W. Armstrong, Hon. Secretary. Invitation Committee: Mr. G. Murray Bain, Hon. W. Chatham, Messrs. T. P. Cochrane, W. A. Cruickshank, T. F. Hough, D. R. Law, R. Macpherson, J. C. Peter, W. Ramsay, Murray Stewart, Hon. Mr. . M. Thomson, Messrs. W. Wilson, D. Wood, and Hon. Secretary (Convener). Card Room Committee: Messrs. W. H. Donald, A. G. Gordon, P. S. Jameson (Convener), and C. Gordon Mackie. Supper and Wines Committee: Messrs. W. Drew Braidwood, H. F. Campbell (Convener), H. F. Carmichael, Duncan Clark, G. L. Duncan, Andrew Forbes, Donald Forbes, T. S. Forrest, W. D. Graham, J. D. Logan, D. Macdonald (B. and S.), D. Macdonald (M. and Co.), F. Maitland, R. Miller, R. Mitchell, A. C. More, Dr. J. Mowat, R.N., W. Parlane, W. Ramsay, A. Rodger, W. W. G. Ross, C. C. Scott, J. Wilkie, D. Wood, and Hon. Secretary. Decoration Committee: Messrs. J. I. Andrew, G. Duncan, Lieutenant A. N. Fraser, R.A.M.C., Messrs. T. C. Gray, R. Henderson, W. C. Jack (Convener), J. McCubbin, E. Burns Pye, Captain A. Milroy, Messrs. A. Ritchie, J. Rodger, J. Gray Scott, T. Skinner, D. Templeton, D. Wood, H. S. Wynne, and Hon. Secretary. Ladies' Room Committee: Dr. C. Forsyth (Convener) and Dr. D. H. Ainslie. Dancing and Music Committee: Messrs. H. G. C. Bailey, G. Balloch, W. C. Cruickshank, A. S. Fraser, M. Macpherson, R. G. Munro, W. Nicholson, A. Sinclair, Murray Stewart (Convener), R. Sutherland, and Hon. Secretary.

Guests began to arrive shortly before 8 o'clock and for some time later there was a continual stream of arrivals. Of course the accommodation was limited, but the good humoured throng were prepared to enjoy themselves and where everyone was animated with such a desire there was nothing that could detract from the general happiness. Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock to the music supplied by the band of the Middlesex Regiment, the official set of Lancers being composed of:—Mr. T. F. Hough and Lady Piggott, Sir Francis Piggott and Mrs. W. A. Cruickshank, Commodore H. P. Williams and Mrs. D. Wood, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank and Mrs. H. P. Williams, Colonel C. H. Darling and Mrs. W. Chatham, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham and Mrs. A. G. Wise, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mrs. F. E. Kent, Mr. D. Wood and Lady Berkeley.

The programme included twenty-two dances, and needless to say it was gone through with much zest and enjoyment. This was particularly noticeable in the Scotch dances, and in the reels the enthusiasm of the dancers led to an almost continual chorus of "hoochs," which in itself proclaimed the abandon with which the active pleasures of the evening were entered into. It was only proper that the kilt should be seen on such an occasion, and one or two gentlemen added a touch of variety to the brilliant scene by appearing in the picturesque "garb of old Gaul." The majority of Scotsmen however, were satisfied with a heather buttonhole, and several ladies wore tartan sashes.

As formerly, supper was served in two relays. The first adjournment took place after eleven o'clock, when the skirl of the bagpipes told that the President was being escorted with time honoured ceremonial into the supper room. Mr. Hough presided, the party sitting at the President's table being Mrs. H. E. Pollock and Mr. Murray Stewart; Mrs. A. W. Brewin and Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett; Mrs. E. Osborne and Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson; Mrs. W. Ramsay and Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz; Mrs. W. Chatham and Colonel C. H. Darling; Mrs. H. P. Williams and Mr. W. A. Cruickshank; Lady Piggott and Mr. T. F. Hough; Sir Francis Piggott and Mrs. W. A. Cruickshank; Commodore H. P. Williams and Mrs. D. Wood; Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, and Lady Berkeley; Hon. Mr. W. Chatham and Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart; Sir Henry Berkeley and Mrs. F. E. Kent; Mr. H. E. R. Hunter and Mrs. G. Murray Bain; Mr. D. Wood and Miss Hunter. The menu was an interesting document. Burns' famous grace "Some hae meat and canna eat," with other quotations from the Bard, was conspicuous but naturally the item which aroused most interest was "the haggis," which was honoured in the usual fashion. The piper was Mr. Alex. Robertson. Greetings from kindred societies at home and in the East were read by the President.

A figure of "Wee MacGreegor" on the platform pointed those present to the next dance an indication not to linger too long at the tables.

Downstairs the smoke room and card rooms were well filled, but it was not put on record how many failed to pronounce the password "Auchtermuchty." At the entrance there was another figure of "Wee MacGreegor" and an extract in which the precocious youth was telling his maternal relative that his "paw was in there."

A number of "extras" were introduced, and dancing was brought to a close about three o'clock this morning.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, November 30th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT.).

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The Holland China Trading Company, Alexandra Buildings, Victoria, brought an action against the Tong Tai firm, traders, 93 Wing Lok Street for breach of contract. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for defendants.

The statement of claim was to the effect that on June 3rd 1905, plaintiffs entered into a contract with defendants for the purchase by the defendants of 500 bags of sugar weighing altogether 842·89½ piculs, to be ordered by the plaintiffs from Holland and to be delivered to defendants as soon as possible at the price of $10 per picul less 2 per cent. The sugar arrived in the Colony about the end of November 1905, and the plaintiffs forthwith requested defendants to take delivery thereof, but defendants refused to accept the sugar or to pay for the same. The sugar was accordingly sold by public auction and the plaintiffs suffered damage for which they claimed $2,137·22.

The defendants admitted entering into a contract with plaintiffs for the purchase of 500 bags of sugar, but denied that by the terms of that contract the sugar was to be ordered from Holland, and so to be delivered in lots, namely, 250 bags in three months, and 250 bags in four months. The defendants negotiated for the purchase of the sugar through one Ming Kee, a salesman or broker in the employ of the plaintiffs, and verbally agreed to purchase 500 bags at $10 per picul less 2 per cent discount, to arrive in two equal lots in three and four months respectively. They were unable to speak or read English and the whole transaction was carried out through Ming Kee. Defendants did not admit that the sugar arrived in the Colony as stated by plaintiffs, or that the plaintiffs requested them to take delivery or that they (the defendants) refused to accept delivery. The defendants averred that on 3rd November, 1905, they gave notice to the plaintiffs that by reason of the failure of plaintiffs to deliver the said sugar they would no longer consider that the contract was binding on them. Defendants did not admit that the sugar was sold by public auction or that the plaintiffs had suffered any damage.

In reply to the statement of defence the plaintiffs said that Ming Kee had no authority to enter into any contract, or make any representation on their behalf. If Ming Kee made such representations as alleged in the statement of defence, the plaintiffs had no knowledge thereof, did not consent thereto and were not bound thereby. The plaintiffs joined issue.

After Mr. Pollock's opening statement evidence was called and the case adjourned.

Monday, December 3rd.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

STATE SECRETS.

This was a motion for a rehearing, before the Full Court, of the case decided at the Police Court between Mustafa Ismail and Hyat Ali Shik.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's offi[ce])

appeared for appellant, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, for the Crown.

Mr. Slade—The Crown consented to have the matter reheard before the Full Court, but they have subsequently made an amended suggestion that only the evidence of the appellant be taken, and not the evidence of other witnesses. I regret we cannot consent to that.

The Puisne Judge—You are applying for a rehearing. When that comes on this Court has power to admit any fresh evidence.

The Chief Justice—The rehearing of a criminal case before the Full Court? I am afraid I am a little behind the practice.

Mr. Slade—Under the Magistrate's Ordinance, that is the only way it can be done.

Sir Henry Berkeley—What they have to show is that they have any grounds for a rehearing.

Mr. Slade—What I am relying on is this letter from the Colonial Secretary.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I must raise an objection here. My learned friend proposes to read a confidential communication from the Government to the General Officer Commanding Troops. It is a state letter which he has no right to read in Court.

Mr. Slade—I have the authority of the General Officer to do it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The General Officer Commanding has no power to consent to property of that kind being made public, when it is headed confidential. He must have been misunderstood when he said he wished a confidential letter read without the permission of the writer. The letter was written confidentially, making certain offers and liberating the prisoner pending appeal. It is a State document which cannot possibly be read. A confidential communication between officials is regarded as a letter between private persons, and I am rather surprised my friend should be here to take that course, especially after the remark I made to him.

His Lordship—Unless you have the authority of the writer—

Mr. Slade—The correspondence was initiated by the General Officer. He headed his first letter confidential; consequently all the others afterwards were marked confidential. He, being the person who initiated it, has the right to give permission. Surely the Crown cannot go back and shelter themselves behind the heading "confidential." I am in a position to prove that a direct offer was made on behalf of the Crown with regard to this case, and we have acted upon it.

The Chief Justice—If it is covered by the word "confidential" you cannot.

Mr. Slade—It is a most disgraceful breach of faith on the part of the Government not to consent to a rehearing in this case, and I hope the gentlemen of the Press will take notice of it, and that it will be borne in on the officials guilty of it.

The Chief Justice—We cannot take any cognizance of what is in the letter. It is a question entirely to be settled between your client and the Crown.

Mr. Slade—As your Lordship pleases. Let the Crown go back on anything they say.

Sir Henry Berkeley—They have not gone back on anything.

Mr. Slade—Please, Sir Henry, don't make statements like that.

The Puisne Judge—We have decided that the letters shall not go in.

Sir Henry Berkeley—We consent now to the prisoner giving his evidence, but before he can get an order for a rehearing he must establish that the magistrate came to a wrong conclusion on the evidence before him. I submit on the evidence before him, the magistrate could not do anything else but convict.

The Puisne Judge—My own belief is that only at the rehearing have we power to call fresh evidence.

After consultation on the point the Chief Justice announced that in the opinion of the court fresh evidence could not be taken on the motion.

Sir Henry Berkeley—This particular point is whether your Lordships can commit yourselves to the consent the Crown is prepared to give to allow the evidence of the prisoner to be taken. I am merely consenting that the prisoner shall be allowed to avail himself of his evidence as if he had given it before a magistrate. It was not taken before the magistrate, apparently due to a misapprehension, and I am prepared to allow it to be taken and placed among the depositions and considered by the Court, to allow the Court to come to the conclusion if a rehearing should be granted. It seems to me that course will prevent any unfair feeling by the prisoner or those interested in him that he has been improperly convicted, and that I am not asking the Court to exercise jurisdiction they have not got.

Mr. Slade—The Court may either dismiss the appeal or grant a rehearing. All we ask for is that the matter should be reheard, then it may be that you will only take the evidence of this man. I want a rehearing, and want it to be clearly understood that the Crown are objecting. They want to have merely this evidence put among the depositions and treated as if it had been taken before the magistrate. That is impossible, as we cannot see what the effect on the magistrate's mind would have been had he heard this evidence. They want the Court to assume that if the magistrate had heard this evidence he would have convicted.

The Puisne Judge—You object to the evidence being taken of this man only?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Very well, I withdraw my consent. He (Mr. Slade) appeals to Cæsar and he can go to Cæsar.

Mr. Slade—We want to have a rehearing, but—

Sir Henry Berkeley—On the ground that your man was not called; that is the only grievance.

Mr. Slade—It is not the only one and you know it quite well. You ought not to make such statements. This correspondence has been thrown open by the Colonial Secretary, and they now attempt to allege it is confidential.

Sir Henry Berkeley—On behalf of the Crown I take the objection that nothing except the depositions can be referred to on an appeal on the question of fact. The Appeal Ordinance refers to appeal on question of law and appeal on question of fact. Where an appeal is made on a question of fact, the prisoner is confined to the four corners of the depositions, and must show the Court that on the facts in these depositions the conclusion arrived at by the magistrate is an erroneous one. The Court can consider nothing on this application for a rehearing except the question as to whether the magistrate was or was not warranted upon the facts before him in coming to the conclusion he did. Therefore I submit the Court should stop my learned friend from making allusions liable to cause feeling between the Government and His Majesty's forces.

Mr. Slade—It undoubtedly will cause feeling.

Sir Henry Berkeley—My learned friend seems to be quite unaware of the important and serious matters he is attempting to drag into this case. He wants to bring before this Court an act of impropriety on the part of the magistrate in the conduct of this case, which should not come before the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Slade—I am not referring to any impropriety on the part of the magistrate. Will your Lordships hear me?

The Chief Justice—You want to refer to something which would qualify your former statement with regard to the heading "confidential."

Mr. Slade—This correspondence has been opened by Mr. Sercombe Smith himself, and rendered non-confidential. Certain letters I have here show that the seal of confidentiality has been taken off entirely.

The Puisne Judge—You say it is admitted there is only one part of the correspondence it has been agreed to make public?

Mr. Slade—I don't know about it.

The Chief Justice—You say you contend that on those letters there may be some consent; then surely that would depend on whether we can accept Sir Henry Berkeley's suggestion that this consent can be given?

Mr. Slade—My view is this: that the terms of these letters contain in precise words an unconditional consent to have this matter heard before the Full Court. Now they subsequently mean them—

The Chief Justice—In view of the obvious inconvenience of correspondence being referred to in Court, unless absolutely necessary, it would be better if the correspondence was sent to us in chambers. Then we can express such view on it as we think best. Even supposing the Crown consented to a rehearing, the Court would not be bound to grant it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—You have the Crown here to-day to oppose a rehearing.

Mr. Slade—Yes, have it plain; that's plain; the Crown appear here to-day to oppose the rehearing.

Sir Henry Berkeley submitted that the Court could not bind the Crown to a rehearing on mere correspondence, and the case was formally adjourned until the 11th. Meantime the confidential papers will be considered in chambers

In Original Jurisdiction.

Before Sir Francis Piggott (Chief Justice.)

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The action brought by the Holland China Trading Company, Alexandra Buildings, against the Tong Tai firm, traders, 93 Wing Lok Street, for breach of contract was continued.

The Hon. Mr H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for defendants.

The case for the plaintiffs having concluded, Mr. Slade in opening the defence submitted that the evidence adduced on behalf of plaintiffs showed that defendants were induced to enter into these contracts by the false representation of the plaintiffs' agent. As to the contents of the English portion of the contract, he submitted that it had been established law for many years that if an agent in the course of employment made a false representation and thereby induced another to enter into a contract, the principal of the agent was liable for the act of the agent. He was liable either in action brought against him by the defrauded person or if the defrauded person refused to carry out the contract. False pretences could be used either as a ground of action, or as a defence to an action. In the course of negotiations for this contract the agent made untrue statements, and on the face of those statements the defendants entered into the contract. After quoting authorities in support of his argument Counsel submitted that on plaintiffs' own case there must be a verdict for defendants.

Evidence was led and the case further adjourned.

In Summary Jurisdiction

Before Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge).

CLAIM FOR GOODS SOLD.

Mak To sued Chan Kwan and Cheong Sui to recover the sum of $125.10 for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. F. C. Barlow (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for plaintiff, Mr. R. A. Harding for the first defendant and Mr. Ctto Kong Sing for the second.

Mr. Barlow stated that plaintiff was a provision dealer while defendants were stewards on the s.s. *Indravelli*. On June 28th defendants went to the plaintiff's shop and purchased goods to the total amount endorsed on the writ. Half the amount was to paid down, and the other half on the return of the ship to port. The goods were placed on board, and when plaintiff sought the defendants they informed him they had no money, so would pay all when they returned to Hongkong. Plaintiff had made repeated applications for payment, but without avail.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship refused to believe plaintiff's story and allowed judgment for defendants with costs.

Wednesday, December 5th.

In Original Jurisdiction.

Before Sir Francis Piggott (Chief Justice).

CLAIM FOR NON-DELIVERY.

The You Chou Shing firm sued the China Navigation Co., Ld. to recover the sum of $5,347.78 for the non-delivery of a cargo of indigo.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiffs, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

The statement of claim set forth that on June 30th, 1905, the plaintiffs shipped 280 tubs of indigo on board the s.s. *Yunnan* belonging to the defendant Company for carriage to Newchwang under a bill of lading signed by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, agents for the defendant Company. The indigo was not delivered at Newchwang, or any part thereof.

In the statement of defence the defendants admitted the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the statement of claim, but further said as follows:—The 280 tubs of indigo were with the knowledge and consent of the plaintiffs shipped as deck cargo at the shippers' risk, and during the course of the voyage in question the indigo was jettisoned by the mariners pursuant to the order of the master in consequence of the extraordinary bad weather which prevailed, and for the safety of the defendants' s.s. *Yunnan* and of the lives of those on board. Among the exceptions and conditions contained in the bill of lading under which the said indigo was shipped and carried were the exceptions of loss or damage from jettison, and "from all and every, the perils, dangers or accidents of the sea and navigation of whatsoever nature and kind," and further "any act, neglect or default whatsoever of the master or mariners or other servants of the company in the management or navigation of the ship." All kinds of goods carried on deck are carried solely at the shipper's risk. The defendants say in the alternative that if, which they deny, the said jettison was improper and unnecessary, or if it was due to any neglect or default on the part of the master or mariners in the management or navigation of the ship they are protected by the aforesaid exceptions and conditions from the liability of the plaintiffs.

The reply stated that the indigo was sent off to the *Yunnan* to be shipped in the ordinary and usual manner. The plaintiffs on delivery of the indigo on board, received the mate's receipt and in due course changed it for the bill of lading which was an ordinary below deck bill of lading and contained no statement that the indigo was to be carried on deck at shipper's risk. The plaintiffs joined issue.

Mr. Slade, in opening, said the facts of the case were exceedingly simple. The plaintiffs employed a Chinese firm, the Yee Tai Cheong, whose business is to ship goods for other people, to ship these goods. The indigo was taken off to the ship in a lighter and shot down a slide into a water ballast tank at the bottom of the ship. As soon as the loading was concluded, the tallyman wrote in Chinese on the face of the delivery order "received 280 tubs of indigo" with no comment or remark. Then he gave the delivery order and mate's receipt to the shipper, who handed them to the ship's compradore. The compradore or his clerk filled up these forms in English and signed them in English. Then there was an hiatus in the story, and the next item they could prove was that in the course of that afternoon the plaintiffs took the bill of lading to the German Lloyd Marine Insurance Co., and obtained a policy of insurance for these goods as lower deck goods. The authorities were clear that where a bill of lading did not specify where the goods were to be carried, it implied a contract to carry the goods below deck. With regard to the mate's receipt, the defendants had pleaded to one document only, therefore they should be bound by that document—the bill of lading.

Mr. Pollock directed his Lordship's particular attention to the reply filed, in which it was denied that the indigo was shipped in the ordinary and usual manner. The conditions on the mate's receipt were incorporated in the bill of lading, and it was incorrect for the plaintiffs to say that it was an ordinary below deck bill of lading.

Mr. Slade, continuing, said the conditions on which a bill of lading was issued before the goods were shipped were that the shipowner would not deliver the goods alleged to be proposed to be shipped unless the mate's receipt was produced at the port of arrival. In such cases the mate's receipt never got back into the hands of the shipowner until the goods were delivered. He submitted that the function of a mate's receipt was limited to the functions that could be exercised by the mate; that the mate was not allowed to make alterations in the contract of carriage beyond the quality, nature and description of the goods. Regarding the bill of lading, none of the clauses were ever interpreted in their widest possible meaning; they were always interpreted in their narrowest possible meaning against shipowners. Mr. Slade then proceeded to quote authorities in support of his arguments, after which evidence was called, and the case adjurned.

In Summary Jurisdiction.

Before Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge).

LESSEE AND TENANT.

Tam Chak-u sued Louis Comar to recover $158.20 for two Chinese months' rent and taxes in respect of the third floor of 61 Des Vœux Road Central.

Mr. F. X. d' Almada e Castro appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for defendant.

Mr. Almada stated that plaintiff let the premises to the defendant on October 3rd, 1905. Some time afterwards he gave notice to the tenant that he must quit the premises, informing him at the same time that if he did not he would be charged $70 a month from November 1st. Defendant continued in the premises until the 29th or 30th December and did not pay any rent, but he had paid $50 into Court.

Plaintiff deposed to renting the second and third floors of the house in question from Tam Sun-ting. He let the third floor to defendant at a monthly rental of $50.85 including taxes. After receiving a notice to quit, written by plaintiff's son, defendant did not leave the premises, neither had he paid the increased rent demanded. Witness did not dare to apply for the increased rent for fear defendant would strike, scold and beat his children. In November defendant agreed to pay the old rent.

His Lordship—Did you agree to take the old rent?

Plaintiff parried the question.

His Lordship—I have always thought he was not capable of minding his own affairs. He ought to have someone looking after them, although at present he's as clever as I've seen him, and I have known him for about 25 years

Cross-examined—Witness had not a lease of the floor. Tam Sun-ting, the owner of the premises, was a distant cousin of his. After supplying defendant with a written notice witness saw him and asked for payment of the increased rent. This was about December 16th

Mr. Grist—What have you waited a year for?—My children did not dare to go and ask him for the rent.

You could have summoned him.—I was summoned by him at the Police Court and bound over in the sum of $100 to keep the peace for twelve months.

Mr. Grist—That's exactly it, and that's why you've trumped up and brought this case?—That is not so.

His Lordship—What did he summon you for at the Police Court?—Because I asked him for the rent and he did not give it.

His Lordship—Is that why you were bound over; because you asked for rent?

Mr. Grist—He was bound over for pouring water over the verandah after the usual Chinese fashion.

Witness—I was bound over for assault.

His Lordship—I suppose that was because the water dropped on defendant's face.

Defendant was then called and said he leased two floors of the house from Tam Sun-ting and one floor from plaintiff. When witness got the notice to quit he showed it to the owner, who told him to take no notice of it. Witness told the owner he could not agree with the old man because of the case at the Police Court in which he put him to peace (laughter) for twelve months. The owner then told him he would turn Tam Chak out and give witness a lease of the whole premises.

His Lordship—I am still more of opinion than ever that he (the plaintiff) ought to be locked up. He is a source of nuisance, as he does not know what he is doing.

In cross-examination, witness said he kept the keys of the third floor because the plaintiff blocked the passage.

Witness, replying to his Lordship, said the plaintiff wanted him to leave the premises on the day of the Police Court case.

Tam Sun-ting was called next, and said he had agreed to let the whole of the premises in question to Comar, and informed the plaintiff accordingly.

His Lordship—Why didn't the plaintiff move?—Because Comar was unable to take over the premises.

Mr. Grist—Tam Chak had no right to collect rent.

His Lordship—I don't see that Comar should suffer in this matter. I think these two people (witness and plaintiff) should suffer if I can only make them.

Mr. Grist—We are willing to pay the rent for November, but it was so difficult to say which out of the two ought to receive it that we paid it into Court.

His Lordship—My opinion is that Comar ought not to pay anything. I shall keep the money in Court and these two people can fight out to whom it belongs.

Mr. Almada asked his Lordship to order the payment of $70 to his client.

Mr. Grist objected, saying that the two Chinamen were in touch with one another.

His Lordship—Yes; they are both tarred with the same brush. There will be judgment for the amount paid into Court without costs.

Thursday, December 6th.

Before Sir Francis Piggott (Chief Justice).

CHUNG SHUN-KOO'S AFFAIRS.

His Lordship delivered his decision regarding the motion for leave to disclaim the lease made between the debtor and the Hongkong Land Investment Co as lessors.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the trustee, and Hon Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., represented the Land Investment Co.

His Lordship said—In the matter of a disclaimer of a lease entered into by Chung Shun-koo with the Land Investment Company, it looked at first sight as if I should have at last to decide the much vexed question whether the English Bankruptcy rules were in force in the Colony in virtue of the joint operation of section 71 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance and sub-sections 3 and 4 of the C.C.P. It seems probable, however, that the question will only be solved piecemeal and by a gradual process of elimination. I have now only to consider whether the English rule 320 is in force here. The operation of section 71 in this particular is subject to the limitation that the rules shall not be inconsistent with the Bankruptcy Ordinance, and on the face of it the English rule 320 is inconsistent. It begins "A lease may be disclaimed without leave of the Court in the following cases", which fits on to section 55 (3): "a trustee shall not be entitled to disclaim a lease without the leave of the Court, except in any case which may be prescribed by general rules." The provisions of section 48 (3) of the Hongkong Ordinance are simply "a trustee shall not be entitled to disclaim a lease without leave of the Court". The cases dealt with in rule 320, one of which was attempted to be set up here, do not apply to this Colony. This leaves us with the broad general rule that a lease cannot be disclaimed without leave of the Court. This must mean that a disclaimer is not a disclaimer until it is sanctioned by the Court, which of itself precludes the possibility of allowing a disclaimer to have a retrospective operation. For the reasons adduced for such a retrospective operation might go to the extent of introducing a condition similar to the case contemplated in English rule 320. I do not think therefore that I need unravel the disputed interpretation of what took place between Mr. Lowe and Mr. Deacon on the one side, and Mr. Deacon and Mr. Shelton Hooper on the other. I must point out, however, that Mr. Lowe in his affidavit

of November 14th at the end of paragraph 6, says: "Mr. Deacon added that he was looking into the matter on my behalf on September 14th"; and on September 24th in a letter to Mr. Almada he says: "Mr. Deacon already has my instructions in the matter of the disclaimer." In any circumstances, therefore, it would be impossible to hold that the Land Investment Co. had an effective notice on the 14th September of the trustee's intention to disclaim, and so far as the written notice of intention to disclaim of the 25th October, this, as I have already said, is not of itself sufficient to operate as an actual disclaimer until the leave of the Court has been in fact given. While, therefore, I give leave to disclaim, I cannot make it operative except from the time when the order is drawn up. This carries with it the right of the Company to retain rents accrued out of the $7,500 in their hands. With regard to the remaining question, I am not at all clear how and for what the Company will prove in the bankruptcy, but the question is not before us now. This point, however, does seem clear. The money in their hands is called a security; and the claim which they will make, if it is admissible, will be one which falls within the objects for which the money was deposited with them in security. It is the debtor's money, and the Company has a lien on it expressly created by the deed. They therefore come within the definition of secured creditors in the Bankruptcy Ordinance. The motion having raised points on which the trustee has been unsuccessful, the Company must have the costs of the motion out of the estate.

CREDITOR'S CLAIMS.

His Lordship continued:—I have now to deal with certain questions arising out of my judgment on the motion of the Trustee calling on certain creditors to establish their claims, and in default that their claims be expunged. The decision of this motion follows in natural and logical sequence from that judgment. The Trustee being the successor in title of the Official Receiver can do no more than the Official Receiver himself. The claim of any creditor having been admitted, the Official Receiver could not come to the Court and say merely: "I have changed my mind with regard to a certain creditor and I want his claim investigated." Nor can the Trustee. What can be done is that the Official Receiver or Trustee, as the case my be, can come to this Court with some ground of suspicion, some definite reason why he considers such and such a claim needs further investigation. I cannot put the decision of the Official Receiver to admit the claim quite on the high level of a judgment, neither can I hold on the other hand that the Official Receiver in the performance of his duty imposed upon him by section 30 (E) is a merely ministerial officer. He may require evidence to be furnished to him and must come to a decision upon the evidence before him, whether that originally furnished that which he has called for; and an appeal from his decision lies to this Court. His duties therefore are clearly magisterial in this instance. Looking at the question generally, what does the Trustee propose that this Court should do here? Merely call on the creditors to substantiate or adduce further evidence in support of their claims, without adducing the slightest evidence or giving any reasons casting suspicion on the claims in support of his request. The mere fact that learned counsel has been instructed to call them "bogus" creditors, as he did throughout his argument, is not sufficient; nor is the assumption that the Court will be hoodwinked unless the motion is acceded to. The creditors are entitled to remain in the position in which the acceptance of their claims by the Official Receiver has put them: and if the Trustee has any ground for supposing that the Official Receiver erred in accepting the documents, or if he had any ground of suspicions that the claim is a bogus one let him come to this Court and say so, giving his reasons, and the Court will consider them. Without it—No! So much for the general aspect of the question. But with regard to the special case of the oil contract, a case has clearly been made on the law, and the mere mention of the word "differences" in the contract shows that the question requires investigation; and not in law only, but also in fact. We must inquire a little more particularly what that contract really is. Was it a wagering contract, or was it a time bargain? There is nothing to show. And as it is clear that the Court of Bankruptcy can go behind even a judgment, it is clear that all the circumstances under which time contracts were entered into can be made the subject of inquiry. Directly this inquiry is sanctioned it is of course impossible to limit it, and the questions put to the creditor may inevitably include such as will test the existence of the contract. This I cannot help, nor, as the claim has been sworn to will it involve any additional hardship or expense, or any departure from the general principle I have laid down. As to the procedure, there is no need for any issue, nor any pleadings. I shall call upon this creditor to come before the Court, as a person whom the Court deems capable of giving information respecting the debtor's dealings under Section 26 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance. I shall treat the proof accepted by the Official Receiver as a sufficient *prima facie* proof of his claim, and he may then be cross-examined by counsel for the Trustee, and re-examined by the counsel who is appearing for him. The question of costs is reserved.

Mr. Slade—I don't quite follow your Lordship's last words. Assuming I appear for this man could I not put him in the box and examine him?

His Lordship—I think it would be more consistent that I should treat it as if he had already given *prima facie* proof.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I think my learned friend's suggestion is the fairer for him and us, that he should examine his witness and prove his case.

His Lordship—I consider the Official Receiver's acceptance of the claim as *prima facie* proof.

Sir Henry Berkeley—That course ought not to be adopted for this reason: you have accepted the reception of proof by the Official Receiver as *prima facie* evidence of the claim. I respectfully submit that the right course is to let my learned friend, in obedience to a direction of the Court, put the witness in the box to give further evidence in support of the claim. When he has given the Court his evidence the trustee might be satisfied. All he has ever asked for is that further evidence might be given, and how can I cross-examine without in the first instance hearing what he has got to say.

His Lordship—The cross-examination is simply "what are the conditions under which the contract was entered into?" I think that is the soundest ruling. The date of hearing is fixed provisionally for the 8th, and the question of costs reserved.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Do I understand the Official Receiver should never hold any meeting or permit any creditor to vote on any sort of resolution until he has thoroughly gone into and investigated the claim made by the creditor, because the practice has been frequent?

His Lordship—I don't think I see any difficulty in interpreting subsection 9 of section 30.

Sir Henry Berkeley—If you once allow a vote I understand it is to stop for ever afterwards.

His Lordship—There is nothing in my judgment to support that.

BANKING DIFFICULTY SURMOUNTED.

His Lordship explained that the difficulty regarding the opening of an account in connection with the debtor's estate had been settled, therefore the former order he made would be cancelled and the money paid into the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

AN IMPRISONED DEBTOR.

Re the Wing Sun Chuen firm *ex parte* Wong Yu Nam.

This was an application for a debtor's release.

Mr. F. C. Barlow (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared to apply for the release of an imprisoned partner in the debtor firm. Mr. J. S. Harston (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding), Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) and Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared to oppose the application.

Mr. Barlow informed his Lordship that he appeared for Lo Ming, a partner in the debtor firm who was at present in Victoria Jail for failing to find security. An affidavit filed on November 8th showed that a receiving order had been made against the debtor firm Lo Ming filed the statement of affairs of the firm, and a sum of $900 had already been collected by the trustee in bankruptcy. He submitted that the present position could not be maintained as the affidavits showed nothing against his client.

Mr. Harston stated that the debtor firm were at present indebted to Shewan, Tomes and Co. in the sum $11,270 while the assets returnable were between $800, and $900, and they had had $11,000 worth of goods during the six months preceeding the bankruptcy. As the result of an original action the prisoner was put in jail as he failed to find security.

His Lordship—But now that bankruptcy has supervened, how can you keep him in jail?

Mr. Harston—Under section 10.

His Lordship—Without going into the facts I should have thought that that *ipso facto* would have released him.

Mr. Harston submitted that under section 10 the debtor should be kept in jail until he gave a satisfactory account of what he had done with his money.

His Lordship—I don't see how you can go so far as that. You might make a strong case for security for his appearance.

Mr. Harston—That is all I want.

His Lordship (to Mr. Barlow)—Are you willing to give security?

Mr. Barlow—This man's a bankrupt, how can he?

His Lordship—So was that gentleman I just discharged, but he found security.

Mr. Barlow—I would submit that now the bankruptcy has proceeded so far everything that could be recovered has been recovered. Assuming that he was going to run away it is not necessary for his further appearance now that the property has been restrained. I would suggest further in support of this, that at the meeting of creditors no resolution was passed, and if no instructions were given the official receiver to take necessary proceedings to detain this man he should be discharged. They have no right to keep him under this existing bond after he has been made bankrupt; that has been ruled in this Court already.

Mr. Harston—I submit your Lordship has power under the section I mentioned to order the debtor to find sufficient security.

His Lordship—The point Mr. Barlow takes is this: that the effect of the receiving order entitles you to no remedy against the person of the debtor without the leave of the Court. I don't know whether he is right.

Mr. Harston—Section 10 gives your Lordship power.

His Lordship—But Mr. Barlow takes the previous point that the man has no right to be in jail. The law seems to be fairly clear that he is entitled to his release if he applies for it, but it seems to me it was the business of the debtor at the time the receiving order was made to make his application for discharge.

Mr. Grist—He must give notice to the creditor who has been instrumental in putting him in jail.

His Lordship—The only point against you is, what is the use of it?

Mr. Harston—In my affidavit a *prima facie* case is made out to show that there would be some use.

His Lordship decided that the debtor should put up $5,000 security.

Mr. Barlow—I consider this is extremely hard, and would suggest for your Lordship's consideration that this man, having been in prison all this time, the Official Receiver had every opportunity of collecting his debts. The alleged properties in China could be attached, but the man must not be kept in prison indefinitely.

His Lordship—I agree with you that under normal circumstances your client would be entitled to be released, but there is a series of affidavits showing a strong case against him.

Mr. Barlow—I would then ask that the security be reduced.

His Lordship—The story of his transactions is such that it is a very small sum indeed for you to have to find.

Mr. Barlow—Might I ask your Lordship to what extent this is to go; is there any possibility of this man ever being discharged?

His Lordship—That is for you to find out.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The debtor was then examined by the Official Receiver. He said he carried on business as the San Cheong firm at 147 Des Vœux Road Central. He commenced business in 1900 with $500 capital and made a profit of $500 in the first year. In the following year this dropped to $300, but in 1903 he started to sell tin plates, and made a net profit of $400. In 1904 his loss was $600, but at the beginning of February 1905 he made a little profit, losing again by the end of the year from $3,000 to $4,000. He continued business for three or four years after he was unable to meet his liabilities in the hope of making a profit to pay off his debts. He had no property other than that mentioned in his statement of affairs. Previously he had property in the country, but sold it on May 13th, and with the $500 realised paid part of his debt to Shewan Tomes and other firms. He did not make an entry in his cash book, although money received from other sources was always entered. Debtor sold 8 000 cases of tin, about 3,000 cases of which were sent to Macao, while some had been sent to Canton. He had been paid for these goods.

To Mr. Harston—Debtor had no partners. His transactions were extensive with Shewan, Tomes and Co., but they knew he was insolvent when they let him have about $10,000 worth of goods; in fact, they persuaded him to take them. In September he saw a European from Shewan Tomes, but did not tell him he had from $4,000 to $5,000 due him in Macao, although he promised to liquidate his debt in two or three days. He went over to Macao to raise a loan. He had no debts to collect there as they had all been previously paid.

The examination was adjourned.

ALLEGED INSURANCE FRAUDS.

At Hongkong Police Court on December 5th, Wong Sui, Ma Chik Shang, Chung Shing, and a woman named Leung Wong Shi were charged with conspiring to defraud the China Mutual Life Insurance Company of the sum of $2,000 on an insurance policy. Mr. P. W. Goldring prosecuted and Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the second defendant.

Mr. Goldring explained that the case was founded on a death supposed to have occurred in the harbour during the typhoon of September 18th. On July 25th last a man named Leung Yin came to the Canton Office of the China Mutual Life Co. and applied for a twenty years' endowment policy for the sum of $2,000. The manager, Mr. Edwards, issued the necessary papers on the payment of the first year's premium of $110 and the papers were subsequently forwarded to Hongkong and on to the Head Office at Shanghai when the policy was issued and returned to the third defendant, who was a broker and introduced the business. Nothing further was heard of the matter until November 11th, when the female defendant, who alleged that she was the widow of Leung Yin, and the second defendant came to the Canton office and claimed the $2, 00. The statements that they made regarding the man's death were so conflicting that Mr. Edwards wrote to Hongkong for instructions with the result that Mr. Knox, manager of the local office, ordered further inquiries to be made. These resulted in still more conflicting evidence being produced. One of the defendants said that the deceased was swept off the Praya at Hongkong during the typhoon of September 18th and another that he was drowned in the typhoon while crossing the harbour to Yaumati, and eventually the defendants were induced to come to Hongkong to make their claims. Here a trap was laid for them by the company. The firm's compradore got to know all of them and to him they admitted that it was a scheme to get the money out of the Life Insurance Company and he (the compradore) was promised a share of it if obtained, if he would help the defendants. Mr. Goldring said he would prove that there was no such person as Leung Yin and that the man who had assumed that name was still alive He would also show that the address given by the defendants was a fictitious one, in fact that there was no such house and no such street as mentioned by the defendants.

His Worship adjourned the hearing for a week.

THE BANK NOTE TRICK.

Wonderful is the simplicity of the Chinese boatwoman who called at the Central Police Station on Nov. 28th to report how she had been robbed of her belongings. Leaving Aberdeen on the morning of that day attired in her best, adorned with what jewellery she possessed, and with $10 in her purse, she came to Hongkong to do some shopping. In Des Vœux Road West two alleged confidence men accosted her, and asked the way to the clock tower. Wong Pui said she was going in that direction, and, if they accompanied her, she would direct them. Being well-groomed, and of oily tongue, the confidence men evidently wormed themselves into the good graces of their guide, for, when they arrived at their destination, the parting was as that of old friends. The woman had not gone far on her way, however, when she was overtaken by one of the men who said:—"I have just picked up a small bundle containing ten $100 notes, and should be much obliged if you would change it into silver for me." She consented, the bundle was handed over, and the woman had got but a small way on her errand when she was called back. Then the men, with many apologies for their want of confidence, explained that they were strangers in a strange land. She was taking their all-in-all; and, although they felt that they could trust her, they thought it advisable that she should leave something valuable behind as security. Stripping off her bangles, rings and other jewellery valued at $77, she handed them over together with her $10 bill, and once more started for a money changer's. On the way, tickled by curiosity, she thought she would have a look at the bundle of notes, and, on opening it, found to her consternation that the package contained nothing but paper. Hurriedly she returned to the spot where the men said they would wait, and of course they were not there. Then she went to the Central Police Station and told her story, after hearing which Inspector Ritchie sent a Chinese detective with her to the s.s. *Honam* to see if she could find either of the men. She pointed out one, who, she said, had tricked her, and subsequently, it is stated, he pointed out his comrade. Both were arrested, but none of the stolen jewellery was recovered.

They were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday, and the case was remanded.

A NEW TERRITORY TRAGEDY.

The police have just learned of a triple murder which must have taken place early this week on the hillside towards the Shatin Pass. It appears that the three victims resided with Wong Shan in the village of Kum Yam Shaw which lies behind old Kowloon. One was a son of the old man, a second was a nephew and the third was a friend. On Sunday afternoon the three left the house for a walk, and as they did not return that night the old man concluded they had gone to Kowloon City and stayed there. The next day and night passed without bringing any tidings of the young people, and on Tuesday morning he decided to go out in search of them. He took the same path, but he had only been out about an hour when he was horrified to discover the bodies of the missing youths, terribly mutilated, and the vicinity bearing traces of a struggle having taken place. In each case the throat was cut, and the heads and bodies had ugly gashes. The farmer made his way to Shatin and reported the occurrence. The police then took the bodies to the mortuary. Robbery is suggested as one of the motives for the dastardly crime, as the friend of the two parties had a watch and chain and $31 in money, which are missing.

SUCCESSFUL SALVAGE.

On November 29th the French torpedo boat *Fronde*, having been raised, was taken by the *Protector* and a junk to a temporary resting place in Hunghom Bay pending her reception in the Kowloon Dock, where she will be examined by experts with a view to ascertaining whether she will be worth repairing or not.

HOTEL MANAGER DROWNED.

News has reached Hongkong that Mr. A.W. Slaton, manager of the Connaught House Hotel, was drowned at sea last week. He was a passenger on board the s.s. *Hanoi* which was proceeding to Haiphong, and while sitting—so it is reported—on the rail, he lost his balance and fell overboard. The occurrence having been witnessed, life buoys were thrown to the unfortunate man, and the ship was stopped. Search proved fruitless. The matter was reported to the Harbour Authorities and to the U. S. Consul.

Following is the official statement from the *Hanoi*, which came into port on Monday:

s.s. *Hanoi* at Sea, 26th November, 1906

At 6.25 p.m. on the 26th instant, while abreast of Great Ladrone Isle, a passenger, Mr. G. Galimberti, shouted that another passenger had fallen overboard. The engines were at once stopped, a lifebuoy with light attached, thrown overboard, and a boat lowered with the second officer in charge. After searching round from 6.25 till 6.50 p.m. no trace of him could be found. Restarted engine and proceeded on course. It appears that Mr. Galimberti, who was an eye-witness, said that Mr. Slaton was trying to seat himself on the side of the ship which was rolling heavily at the time, and overbalanced himself. (Signed). P. Meerlees (Master), K. M Klausen (mate). C. L' Zork, A. H. Tomsett, G. Galimberti, W. R. Myers, (passengers).

ARRIVAL OF ACTING GOVERNOR.

After an eighteen months' holiday in the homeland, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Mrs. May and family returned to the Colony by the P. and O. s.s. *Nubia* on Dec. 8th. After the vessel was moored a number of Government officials and civilians went off to her to welcome Mr. and Mrs. May, and accompanied them ashore in the Government launch. On landing Mr. May proceeded to Government House, where he will probably reside during the time he is administering the Government. The ceremony of swearing Mr. May in as Acting-Governor will take place at the Legislative Council Chamber on Dec. 15th.

BRITISH BORNEO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

SANDAKAN, November 27th.

THE TENOM-TAWAO EXPEDITION.

I confirm my telegram of this morning, viz:—'Tenom Tawao expedition arrived; Europeans well." The expedition, comprising Messrs. Moore and Tristam, as railway surveyors, etc., Mr. G. H. Hone, for The British Borneo Exploration Co., Ltd, and Mr. Weedon, the Government officer in charge of the transport, arrived here from Silimpopon last evening, by the *Labuan*. They all look remarkably well, after their six months' tramp, though they are certainly thin. The results of their journey have not yet leaked out, but it has been understood for some time that the primary object for which they were sent out, to ascertain the practicability of running a railway through from Tenom to Tawao, has to be reported on unfavourably. The new idea, that of a railway from Sandakan to Kudat, meets with much more general favour.

INTERNATIONAL WALKING MATCH.

There was a fair attendance at the meeting held at the Belle View Hotel on Dec. 6th to consider the advisability of holding a local international walking match. Mr. W. H. Manners was appointed secretary of the movement, and was asked to write to the various clubs in the colony requesting them to send representatives to a meeting to be subsequently convened for the purpose of fixing a date for the event, appointing a committee, judges and officials, and to consider the entrance fee, style of walking, course, prizes and other matters. Individuals interested, who are not members of clubs, are also to be invited to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONGKONG FIFTY CENT PIECES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, December 4th, 1906.

SIR—The latest issue of the Singapore *Government Gazette* contained a proclamation making the fifty cent pieces (which have hitherto been legal only up to two dollars) legal tender to any amount.

As we have no British dollars in circulation in the Colony now, perhaps the Government will see its way to follow the example of Singapore in this respect.—Yours, &c.,

EXCHANGE.

CALCULATING GODOWN SPACE.

TO THE EDIT R OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, December 5th, 1906.

SIR,—In the report in yesterday's "Daily Press" of the meeting of the shareholders of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. the speakers seemed to have got somewhat confused in their calculating the cubic capacity of the godowns the Company intend to construct. One speaker elicited loud laughter when he stated that 30 per cent would be lost in passage space and an additional 20 per cent for stowage. According to his figures the 20 per cent for stowage loss is calculated on the whole cubic capacity of the godowns making in all 50 per cent, which one would think accounted for the loud laughter. Later on another speaker, who was listened to more seriously, seemed to have fallen into the same error, but was not laughed at. Had they gone about the calculation in the right way they would, I think, have arrived at a different result. For example, let the cubic capacity equal one foot. Then, 1 less 30 per cent equals ·7 of a foot. Now instead of calculating the loss from stowage on one foot it must be calculated on the ·7 of a foot. Therefore, ·7 less 20 per cent equals ·56 of a foot, or 56 per cent of a foot. This is 6 per cent more than stated by the speakers, which makes a great difference in profit earning where about 3,000,000 cubic feet are being considered.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID J. LENNOX.

"CALCULATING GODOWN SPACE"

Hongkong, December 7th.

SIR,—I understand from the letter which appears in your issue of to-day under above heading that the loss on 1 c.ft. after deducting 30 per cent for passages, and 20 per cent for loss in stowage is 56 per cent of the whole. If this is so, the writer has gone just as much astray as the speaker at the particular meeting to which he refers. They overstate the loss 6 per cent whereas the writer overstates 12 per cent. The available space of 1 c.ft., after making the deduction based on the writer's figures, is as follows:—

Gross measurement ...	1·	c.ft.
less 30 o/o for passages ...	·30	„
	·70	c.ft.
less 20 o/o for loss in stowage	·14	„
	·56	c.ft.

or total deduction ·44 c ft, leaving ·56 c.ft available for stowage.—Yours, etc.,

A. B. C.

A BUSINESS MAN'S GROWL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, December 5th, 1906.

SIR,—I have always thought that Hongkong ten-cent pieces are accepted everywhere in the Colony as legal tender, but I made a mistake, for this morning I sent my "boy" to the Post Office to buy a fifty-cent stamp with five Queen-Head ten-cent pieces, and they were refused. This not only caused great inconvenience, but cost me an extra ten cents for late fee, for by the time my "boy" returned without the stamp, the mail had closed.

I do not think that the shroffs at the Post Office are authorized not to accept local subsidiary coins, but that they do not accept them just because they cannot get any discount on them as on banknotes.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

BUSINESS.

HONGKONG TYPHOON RELIEF FUND.

Mr. H. Hunter, the Hon. Treasurer acknowledges, with thanks, the following subscriptions:—

Already acknowledged	$262,452.39	
International Banking Corporation	1,000	
Proceeds of Concert given by the Portuguese Community at the Club Lusitano.	597.24	
E. T. Whibelow, Manchester ...	250.68	
Leon A. Levy, Alexandria	100	
Subscribed by the Members of the Sikh Temple, Happy Valley ...	100	
Mrs. Edmund Sharp £10	86.58	
Mrs. Marie Noyes-Morehouse ..	50	
P. D. Gotla & Co	5	
Received from Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley.		
Police at Ping Shan	$10	
Ping Shan villagers	34.90	
A. J. Mackie...	10	
Lance Sergeant Willis...	5	
Native Police at Au Tau ...	6.90	
Villagers of Sai Pin Wai ...	3.40	
do. Tai Kiu ...	3	
do. Wong Chau ...	1.50	
do. Un Long	49.90	
do. Tung Tau... ...	12.95	
do. Kam Tin	23.60	
do. Ying Lung ...	10	
do. Nam Pin Wai ..	10.50	
do. Toi Shan	25	
do. Un Kong	4	
do. Lin Fa Ti ...	11.80	
do. Tai Wai	4.15	
do. Wong Uk Tsun	3.10	
do. San Tsun	1.22	
do. Ma On Kong ...	7.80	
do. Tai Tong... ...	2.20	
do. Yau Tin	2	
do. Tai Cheung Po	2.64	
do. San Tui	3.25	
do. Sheung Tsun ...	10. 5	
Chinese subsidiary coins ..	$259.06	
@ 7½ disc.		240.93
The following amounts received from the Tung Wah Hospital:		
Chinese Merchants in Kobe, additional subscriptions		1,113.20
do. Townsville		870.75
do. Yokohama, additional subs.		705.72
do. Kampar, Perak, do.		364.04
do Bangkok		258.
Wing Hing Chan		100
Unknown		100
Tong Yick Ku		100
Yuen Loong Chan		100
Him Lee Company		50
Lo Chap Luk		50
Anonymous		50
Hop On Shipping Co.		25
Leung Tin Kwai		25
Yung Hin Man		25
Yung Pick Lau		25
rs. Wai Leung Shi		20
Chang Fung Shan		20
Pow Kai Shan		20
Anonymous		15
Chang Pi Sun		10
Wong Kwai Choi		10
Ng Ki Sui		10
Kwong Kut Woon		10
Ho Yam Nam		10
Kwok Ching Tong		5.66
Chinese Merchant in Brisbane, additional subs.		1,000
Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok		50
Hang Tak Tong		27.20
Chinese Merchants in Kwantin ...		10
Ho Chak Ting		726.50
Tung Chai Hospital, Singapore, additional subs.		500
Li Chiu Fan		341.91
Chinese Merchants in Weihaiwei, additional subs.		189.37
Li Chiu Pui		50
Li Hok Lum		30
Lo Shau Kwai		20
Miss Ng Shi		20
Li Chak Lum		12
Yan Ming Him		5
Li Yow Yuen Tong		5
Pang Loi Wong		3
Li Mow Choi		2
		$271,957.27
Less.		
Discount on Chinese sub. coins received from Tung Wah Hospital	$1,360	
Twice acknowledged	250	1,610
		$270,347.27

HONGKONG CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB.

MOTOR BOAT SECTION FORMED.

The Corinthian Yacht Club, which has been making remarkable progress this season, is to be commended for its enterprise in forming a section for motor-boats. This innovation, which is the first attempt at such an organisation in the Far East, was decided upon at a meeting of the committee on Dec. 5th, when it was agreed to hold a series of races for these craft during the season. A championship cup and one or two other cups are being presented. We are informed that the entries to date number eight and that others are expected. The following motor boat sub-committee was elected—Messrs. J. Hands, W. A. Crake, G.K. Haxton, W. Davidson, J. Blake, and G. L. Hales.

A club cruise for members and friends has been arranged for New Year's day. Yachts and motor boats will leave their moorings opposite the club house at 10.30 a.m. and proceed to Junk Bay. A launch for the convenience of members and friends will start from Blake Pier at the same time. Tiffin will be provided on board. The programme for the day includes lady visitors and non-boat owning members' races, while those privileged will also be introduced to the sport of motor boat racing in Hongkong.

Championship (handicap) races for motor boats will take place on January 6th and 20th, February 10th and 24th, and March 10th and 24th. The races are timed to start at 3 p.m. from a line opposite the club house. The course for the first race is round Lyeemoon Beacon (starboard) and back. All boats must be registered in the club and steered by members only.

IPOH OFFICIAL ON CHINESE PLEASURES.

In opening the big Chinese theatre at Ipoh, Mr. E. W. Birch made the following very commonsense remarks on the subject of opium and gambling. He had referred at length to Sir Frank Swettenham's remarks on the Chinese, and added:

I quote this because I wish the Chinese to know that those who are responsible for the Government—the Residents and the Resident-General—do not forget what they owe to the Chinese, and all we ask of them is that whenever they have any complaints to make they will bring it to the notice of the Government and ask the Government to settle it, and not as the Chinese are stupidly doing in Singapore, fight it out amongst themselves.

There are some people nowadays who tell you that you must not smoke opium and you must not gamble. It is a bad thing to smoke too much opium, and it is a bad thing to gamble for more than you can pay. But I think that these people forget that it is necessary for every human being to play as well as to work, and I am very glad to see in a busy place like Ipoh this splendid Theatre opened, where after your day's work you can come and enjoy yourselves.

I hope that every one will come as often as possible, so as to bring success to the management and plenty of enjoyment to yourselves.—*Singapore Free Press.*

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

November 28th.

A USEFUL RESIDENT.

I hear that Mr. P. G. Jones, of the British Consular service here, is transferred to Peking and that he is leaving for the North in a few days. Mr. Jones will be missed by his many friends here, while the A D.C. loses one of its prominent members.

PATHETIC REJOICING.

Shameen is quite up to date now. We have a dentist in the person of Dr. Ishiwara who has just established himself here. He holds diplomas both from the Japanese and American universities. Now we need not go to Hongkong to have our teeth attended to.

THE FIRE SEASON.

This is the fire season and hardly a day passes without a fire here and there. The night before last ten houses were burnt down in Chan Mok street. During this fire a second one started in the immediate neighbourhood. Rumour says that it was done purposely by one tenant who had a spite against his neighbour and wanted to burn him out.

NEW VICEROY BEGINS WELL.

The New Viceroy H.E. Chou-Fu has started his reign with a very humane act by releasing the unfortunate members of Chow Tung Sang's family who were locked up by Viceroy Shum. All the women and children have been set at liberty by H.E's orders and are now back in their homes

December 2nd.

OFFICIAL CALLS.

A few days ago all the foreign Consuls called on H.E. the Viceroy according to the established custom. Yesterday morning H.E. returned the call at each Consulate in turn. Being popular H.E. Chou Fu does not need a large escort and as he is known to be very simple in manner there is nothing of the pompous show that his predecessor was so fond of. The Shameen guard was lined up on the Concession and looked smart in their new uniforms. Shortly after Viceroy Chou Fu arrived and was received by the commanding officers of the guard, who saluted with their swords while the drums and trumpets played a lively air. H.E. first called on the French Consul and then proceeded to the British Consulate, where, owing to Mr. Mansfield being ill, he was received by Mr. Sly and Mr. Jones. Consul-General Mansfield is suffering from a bad chill and I understand that a change of air having been recommended, Mr. Mansfield may take a short trip to recruit his health. We wish him a prompt recovery.

DARING ROBBERY.

It is reported that a few days ago an armed gang of robbers broke into His Excellency Tong Shao-yee's house in Heungshan. The robbers looted the place and carried away jewellery and valuables amounting to over 40,000 taels. The affair was reported to Viceroy Chou Fu by Tong's family. The Viceroy immediately despatched Commander Wong Pui-chung, Expectant Prefect Choi-heung and 100 soldiers to Heungshan to capture these audacious desperadoes. Orders were given to Commander Wong that if any of the robbers were captured, they were to be "tried and beheaded" on the spot.

NEWSPAPER AGENT ARRESTED.

On arrival of the day boat *Fatsha* on Saturday, the 1st instant, Wong Hoi, a Hongkong Chinese newspaper agent, was arrested at the steamer wharf by the I. M. Customs watcher Lui, while taking from the steamer delivery of all the Hongkong Chinese newspapers. Before arresting the newspaper agent, the watcher produced a document issued by Viceroy Shum empowering Customs officials to seize and arrest any persons who are agents for the distribution of certain Hongkong newspapers that are prohibited to enter Canton. Wong Hoi was handed over to the Chinese authorities, but the following newspapers which are not prohibited by order were sent to Wong Hoi's shop for distribution, viz:—Chung Ngoi San Po, Wah Tse, Wai Shum and Cheun Wan.

RESIGNATION OF A HIGH OFFICIAL.

His Excellency Wu Ting Fang is still in Canton and is staying in the Viceroy's Yamen. It is reported that he received a cablegram from the Central Government yesterday accepting his resignation from all the official positions he holds.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

The local *Kwok Sze Po* received a telegram from Shanghai stating that the Cantonese gentry and merchants in Shanghai have sent cablegrams to the Waiwupu, Viceroy Chou Fu and the Canton Chamber of Commerce requesting them to protest against certain terms of the Kowloon-Canton Railway agreement which will be signed by the British and Chinese Governments during the course of this week.

December 4th.

AN ORDER FOR "CHINA LIGHT."

Viceroy Chou Fu brought a very large staff to Canton with him and most of them are staying in his yamen. As the place is insufficiently lighted H.E. has ordered the China Light and Power Company to install 300 more electric lamps in the yamen.

SHUM'S REPUTATION.

The Kwangsi Governor Lum Shiu-nin, who was recently appointed by Imperial edict to be one of the ministers of the Imperial Grand Council, has cabled to Peking that he left Kweilin on the 1st instant to proceed to Peking to take up his new appointment. It is said that Governor Lum's extraordinary promotion was due to Viceroy Shum's recommendation and influence. Viceroy Shum appeared to have no influential friends in the Grand Council to pull the strings for him. As everybody knows, Viceroy Shum did not at all like being transferred to Yuankwei and relies on his protégés's influence at the capital to secure him another appointment.

VISITS HONGKONG.

His Excellency Wu Ting Fang left for Hongkong yesterday. Viceroy Chou Fu went personally to see him off. His Excellency will return to Canton in a few days

THE YUET-HAN RAILWAY IMBROGLIO.

It will be remembered that the Yuet-Han Railway trouble broke out about the middle of January this year owing to a difference of opinion between the officials and the gentry and the merchants.

Viceroy Shum during his tenure of office had but one aim, that of keeping foreigners out of everything and acted up to his motto of "China for the Chinese" to the very day of his departure. There has been a great deal of correspondence between the Viceregal Yamen and the Central Government. Viceroy Shum had continually obstructed the Kowloon-Canton Railway scheme by the usual dilatory answers so dear to the Chinese official, which finally ended in vigorous action taken by the Hongkong Government—the probable cause of his removal from the Liang Kwang.

The Viceroy was determined to carry out his scheme with Chinese funds alone and had devised plans to raise the capital by increased taxation. Following the advice of his old friend Cho Siu-chuk, who, by the way, was already appointed director of the Yuet-Han Railway and President of the Chamber of Commerce, it was decided to raise funds by taxation ostensibly for the construction of the Yuet-Han Railway but with the intention of applying the funds to the Kowloon Canton scheme so as to oust the British out of it. On the 9th of January this year a meeting was convened to submit to the gentry and merchants the Viceregal ideas regarding the raising of funds for the Yuet-Han Railway. Owing to the presence of uninvited officials who made themselves rather conspicuous by making threatening remarks the meeting took a lively turn and ended with the Lai Kwai Pui episode. Telegrams were sent to Peking and through the energy of the unofficial element the officials had to give way and the Viceroy's cunning scheme to divert the Yuet-Han Railway funds was thus frustrated. Since the arrival of H.E. Chou Fu his Chief Secretary (Shum Tung) has been offered the post of President of the Yuet-Han Railway Company but has declined to accept it owing to the mixed up state of affairs. The present situation of affairs is as follows:—A sum of $6,000,000 was collected through the nine charitable institutions in whose hands Taotai Cheang To-chai, president of the company, had left the duty of collecting the subscriptions so to avoid responsibility in case of trouble. Taotai Cheang, as every one knows, was forced to accept the appointment by the ex-Viceroy's clique; he is a wealthy man and has done everything to resign his post since his appointment. It appears now that the funds collected were invested by the heads of the different charitable institutions. Three million dollars were drawn to pay for the redemption of the concession and out of the remaining $3,000,000 it is said that $1,000,000 has been invested in local banks and pawnshops and the remainder $2,000,000 invested with various shops, the proprietors of which are intimate friends of the directors of the charitable institutions. Owing to the stagnant state of affairs it is rumoured that many of these shops are on the verge of failure and that it is very problematic whether the funds invested could in many cases be recovered. Moreover it appears that many of the shares taken up by the "Sin Kwan" or gentry were only taken up by them with the object of placing them amongst their friends, have not been placed at all, and when the first call of $1.00 was made these gentry got the shops to hand in promissory notes stating that the money was invested with them. I shall have more to say on this head in my next.

December 5th.

THE YUET-HAN RAILWAY IMBROGLIO.

To continue where I left off, the public has now lost confidence and unless matters are thoroughly straightened out it will be very difficult to restore that confidence so essential for the success of any enterprise. The Hongkong merchants must have had an inkling of what was going on as they have persistently refused to send over the $2,000,000 subscribed by them, unless the money was deposited in foreign banks in Canton. The nine charitable institutions refused to do so on the plea that it would entail a loss on account of the premium on exchange, smaller interest, etc., and the result was that the money was invested in Hongkong pending satisfactory arrangements in the management here offering more security than what is given at present. President Cheang To-chai has a very difficult problem to solve. Liquidation would spell disaster as the $2,000,000 invested with the local shops must be accounted for, on the other hand nobody will take the responsibility of taking over the management without a clear account being given of the funds in hand. As I have already said it is an open secret that most of the shops that have handled the monies deposited with them are in a bad way and it is next to impossible for them to replace the money lost within the next few months. Taotai Shum Tung has refused to accept the responsibility of taking over the concern as it stands and very wisely too. Taotai Shum is an experienced man. He was secretary to H. E. Wu Ting-fang when that official was minister to the United States. He remained six years in Washington and devoted his time to the study of law and politics. He has expressed his willingness to take over the presidentship when matters are straightened out. The situation has now reached its crisis and it remains to be seen how the dilemma is to be solved. If Taotai Cheang elects to demand accounts from the nine charitable institutions, a panic may be the result and the whole affair as exposed may become a complete fiasco, even to the winding up of the company. In that case no more subscriptions would be forthcoming and the remaining two instalments would never be paid. The alternative solution would be for the managers to make good out of their own pockets what deficit exists. Cheang is said to be a millionaire in dollars and might ultimately find himself obliged to pay to extricate himself. The Vice-President of the company, Wong King-tong, foreseeing the storm that was about to burst, has left for the Straits Settlements after having tendered his resignation prior to his departure. The situation must be cleared up, and interesting developments will no doubt occur within the next month or two.

VICEROY SHUM.

It is reported that Viceroy Shum has left here a score or so of secret emissaries to watch the movements of the new and old officials. This last act of the ex-Viceroy is well in keeping with his character and there is no reason to doubt its veracity. It appears that Shum is afraid that the new officials will undo part of

what was done under his regime. In this he is watching most the officials of his own who retain posts under the new Viceroy. It is said that Viceroy Shum took with him a certain number of blank memorials stamped and sealed ready to forward to Peking the necessary impeaching terms should any of his ex-associates take a part in opposition to his schemes.

RICE.

A considerable quantity of rice consumed by the people in the Kwangtung Province has hitherto been imported from the Lau Chow, Nanning and Hing Yuen Prefectures in the Kwangsi Province. During the last three months very little rain fell in those places and it was predicted that the winter rice crop would fail. The price of rice in those prefectures gradually rose from $5 to $10 per picul The condition of affairs was reported to the Governor of Kwangsi who issued a proclamation prohibiting the exportation of rice. Fortunately there was plenty of rain last month and the crop was saved, in consequence of which the price of rice in Kwangsi has gone down again. But unfortunately after the above proclamation was issued the price of rice in Kwangtung advanced considerably. Recently Viceroy Chou Fu received information that the danger of famine in Kwangsi is over. He has therefore sent a despatch to the Acting Governor to remove the prohibition.

December, 6th.

NEW DIRECTOR.

Expectant Prefect Fong Fan-ming has been appointed director of the Whampoa Naval College.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY

Taotai Kung Sum-tsan was delegated by Viceroy Shum to attend at the conference at Peking to settle the railway agreement with the British Minister. It is now reported that the agreement has been signed and Taotai Kung is about to return to Canton. Owing to the increase of international affairs, on account of various projects, it is said that Viceroy Chou Fu will appoint Kung as secretary in the Foreign Office when he returns to Canton.

YUET-HAN RAILWAY.

It is reported that yesterday Taotai Cheang To-chai received the following telegram from Taotai Wen Cho-tsoi, Director of the Chinese Imperial Telegraphs of Hongkong:—(Translation). "Railway Cheang. Sir,—Your humble servant (Wen Cho-tsoi) will in future have nothing further to do with (the Yuet-Han) railway affairs. I will only sit tight and watch future developments, success or failure of the concern. In the event of the failure of the company I only know that I have paid my money (for shares) to certain charitable institutions and I will demand the return of it from them."

Taotai Cheang To-chai has sent a petition to Viceroy Chou Fu praying that permission may be granted him to resign the presidentship of the Yuet-Han Railway Company so that he may return to his native village to bury his mother. His Excellency replied as follows:—"I have carefully noted the contents of your petition. You (Taotai Cheang) have been very energetic regarding railway affairs and accepted the presidentship of the Yuet-Han Railway Company. I recognize your valuable and energetic services. You now desire to resign the position and return home to bury your mother; according to precedent I should sanction your request, but at present there is so much difference of opinion amongst the people of the Company, the new president is not yet elected, the monies collected from the first installment have not been accounted for, and investigation has not been made as to where those monies have been invested. You must therefore assume the responsibility; consequently your petition requesting me to permit you to resign from the presidentship cannot be considered at present, and I will only consider it and release you from the presidentship when a new man is elected and is willing to accept the position."

FATSHAN RAILWAY.

A landslip took place at Siu Tong while the labourers were at work digging earth on a hillside. Five men who received serious injuries were removed to a foreign hospital.

December 8th.

ROBBERIES ON THE SHAMEEN.

At about 6.30 p.m. yesterday a Chinese constable on the Shameen caught a thief in the act of breaking a window to get into the Commissioner's house. He will be sent to the Nam Hoi. Another professional to whom is attributed a series of larcenies during the last six months was arrested by the Superintendent of Police on the Shameen yesterday afternoon. There was great difficulty in arresting the scoundrel owing to Chinese red-tape. The Superintendent received information as to the whereabouts of the man and got the British Authorities to communicate with the Chinese Authorities so as to cause the culprit to be arrested, but the Chinese Authorities refused to do so unless full particulars of all charges were furnished. This would have naturally entailed a great loss of time and would have given the man time to make good his escape. The Superintendent thought of a shrewd plan to secure him. He sent a Chinaman to lure the thief into the Shameen by promising him an easy job with big wages or something of that sort. The rascal took the bait and came to the Shameen where to his surprise and disgust he was pounced upon and arrested.

VICEROY CHOU FU.

The Shameen guard was called out at 9.30 a.m. to-day. Trumpets and drums were heard playing a lively air. Viceroy Chou Fu was paying a call on Mr. Meyers, Commissioner of Customs.

FOREIGN POST OFFICE.

An Imperial Japanese Post Office has been established on the Shameen to-day. Collectors of postage stamps will be able to buy Japanese postage stamps here in future.

EX EDITOR RELEASED FROM PRISON.

On the 4th instant Yeong Wai Pan, Li Shew Yuen, Leong Hing Kwai and others petitioned Viceroy Chow Fu praying that Chan Ting Heung, ex-editor of the *Ah Chow Po*, who was imprisoned by Viceroy Shum for publishing libellous article against the ex-Viceroy, be released and the press which was confiscated be returned to the proprietors. On the 6th His Excellency instructed the Kwong Chow Prefect after investigation, to order the Nam Hoi Magistrate to release Chan and to deliver the press back to the owners.

VICEREGAL MATTERS.

Viceroy Chou Fu has appointed Taotai Shum Tung, to the following positions viz:—Deputy of the Yuet-Han Railway affairs, Director of the Military Training Department, Secretary of the Kwangtung and Kwongsi Military Yamen, Secretary to the Foreign Office, Deputy of the Education Department, Deputy of the Police Department, and Chief Adviser to the Viceroy. All business will go through his hands.

AN OFFICAL DENOUNCED.

Since Viceroy Shum's departure all the shady characters that had vanished for fear of retribution are intriguing to get into power again. Li-Chee, alias Li Hing-chun of Hongkong fame, has come out of hiding and has managed to secure an appointment in the Viceroy's foreign department. He is again deputy for that bureau, but is not likely to hold his post for long as it is reported that a certain prominent merchant here has sent a telegram to His Excellency Tong Shao Yee of the Wai-wu-pu to denounce him and requesting that Viceroy Chou Fu be instructed to investigate his conduct and to punish him. I trust the Viceroy will not allow men of this type to crawl into his yamen.

FIRES.

A destructive fire occurred at Chan Chuen, near Canton, on the 4th instant. Fifty houses were demolished. The fire occurred in the day; it originated from the Yuen Hing shop. It is said that many of the houses were insured with foreign insurance companies. At about 2 a.m. yesterday a fire broke out in the fire pump station of the Ta Tung Kai. It is said that the watchman whose duty is to protect the street accidentally set fire to the shed on the roof of the watchtower while smoking his pipe and the curious scene of the pump-station requiring aid from outside was witnessed. The fire was put out by hand-pumps which responded to the alarm. The people in Canton are greatly dissatisfied with the working of these engine pump-stations as there is always something wrong with them.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

December 6th.

BERI BERI AMONG PRISONERS.

A few days ago four prisoners were handed by our Government to the Chinese authorities. These men were confined in the Monte Fort and when removed were suffering so badly from beri-beri that they could hardly stand and were taken away in rickshas. It would be well for our Colonial Surgeon. Dr. Araujo, to give closer attention to the gaol and other prisons in Macao with a view to improving the Sanitary state of these places. Although prisoners, these men should be allowed more exercise and fresh air.

TAXES.

Senhor Gentil de Menezes persists in his taxation proposals. Several meetings were held in the Chinese hospital to discuss the matter, and things look serious.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.

Macao is now full of officers on special commissions. These officers are paid handsomely but we see no visible signs of any good done to the city by them. There is at present a party of them making surveys of the city, but I hope their mission will result in some good to poor Macao. The citizens have witnessed much of this apparent energy, with no practical result.

EARLY MORNING TRAVELLERS.

Complaints are rife of the alleged too early departure from Macao of the steamer *Honam*. Every morning many Chinese passengers from the neighbouring villages who come down in passage boats miss the steamer. The result of this is that they go to Hongkong by the later boat. It used to wait till 8 a.m. once.

NEW HARBOUR MASTER.

Our new harbour master, Captain Diogo de Sá arrived here some days ago. Senhor Alves Branco will be leaving next month.

HONGKONG STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LD.

The fourth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Ld. was held at Sir Paul Chater's office on December 8th. Mr. W. H. Potts presided, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Messrs. J. Orange, P. C. Potts, R. A. Harding and E. J. Chapman (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the SECRETARY,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, so we will, with your permission, take them as read. We regret that you should have had to pay extra postage on same, owing to the stupidity of the clerk who posted them. The delay in presenting the report is owing to the fact that we had no funds available with which to pay the proposed dividend without borrowing from the bank, and after all we are only some twenty days later than last year. We are sorry at not being able to show a better result, but this is accounted for by the fact that for the first three months of the year we were working at a loss, owing to the extra expense incurred while transferring the business to Yaumati. Also the loss of custom during that period in consequence of the quality of the work falling below our usual standard by the disorganization of the staff, owing to the majority of the old hands refusing to move. This necessitated the training of new hands. The reduction of the fleet in these waters was also an unexpected blow to our earning powers. We consider that we have a valuable asset in the land and building, which are close to where the Kowloon-Canton railway crosses the high road to Kowloon City. The company has gone through many vicissitudes and trials, but we think we may consider that we have overcome the greater bulk of them. We have unfortunately to depend on the native workman, whose natural tendency is to fold up without remark a damaged or soiled article, which brings discredit on the laundry. We are pleased to say that our earnings up to the present compare favourably with the same period of last year.

In answer to Mr. Harding the CHAIRMAN stated that the expenses of removal came out of last year's account.

No further questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. HARDING seconded, the adoption of the report and accounts. The motion was agreed to.

Sir PAUL CHATER moved the re-election of the Hon. Mr. E. Osborne to the Board of Directors.

Mr. CHAPMAN seconded and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. ORANGE, seconded by Mr. P. C. POTTS, Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN:—That concludes the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

THE CENSUS.

The preliminary report of Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Census Officer, is published in Saturday's *Gazette*. It shows that there is an increase in the non-Chinese population of over 800 persons in the City of Victoria, 165 in the hill district, 169 in the villages, and 1,350 in Kowloon, the latter figure being an increase of about 150 per cent. In the Chinese population there is a decrease of some 3,000 persons in the City of Victoria, and an increase of some 3,400 in the villages of Hongkong, and of nearly 9,000 in Tsim Sha Tsui, Yaumati and Hung Hom. The floating population shows an increase of some 5,500 persons, 4,500 within the harbour limits and 1,000 in the villages of Hongkong. The total number of boats, etc, is 6,846, compared with 5,836 in 1901.

Appended is the report, the figures in which it is stated, are liable to correction:—

NON-CHINESE POPULATION.

Place.	1906.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease
Victoria ...	7,738	6,862	876	—
Peak	601	438	165	—
Hongkong Villages...	395	236	159	—
British Kowloon...	2,245	895	1,350	—
Total ...	10,981	8,431	2,550	
CHINESE POPULATION (LAND).				
Victoria ...	171,684	175,056	—	3,372
Peak	1,715	1,786	—	71
Villages ...	16,801	13,433	3,368	—
British Kowloon	51,801	42,976	8,825	—
Total ...	242,001	233,251	12,193	3,443
CHINESE POPULATION (FLOATING).				
Harbour ...	32,991	28,529	4,462	—
Aberdeen ...	5,637	5,251	386	—
Shaukiwan	6,248	5,439	809	—
Stanley ...	706	881	—	175
Total ...	45,582	40,100	5,657	175
Number of Boats enumerated ...	6,846	5,836	1,010	—

SECTARIAN SQUABBLES IN CHEKIANG.

The troubles in Haimen, in Chekiang province, according to a native correspondent in Ningpo, are to be investigated by a joint Commission composed of a Deputy sent by H. E. Chang Tsêng-yang, Governor of that province, and a representative each of the British and French Consuls-General at Shanghai. The French Consul-General has appointed Tien, (Chinese name) Assistant to the Roman Catholic Bishop in Chékiang as his representative on the Commission. In his dispatch to Governor Chang Tsêng-yang informing his Excellency of the appointment of a Roman Catholic Priest as his representative on the joint Commission the French Consul-General assures the Governor that his representative is a very courteous and affable person who may be trusted to do his utmost to ensure harmony and good feeling in the Commission so that a definite arrangement may be arrived at which shall bring about peace and harmony for a long time between converts of the different faiths to the advantage of all concerned.

TRADE WITH NEWCHWANG.

The following correspondence is published by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce:—

Newchwang, October 9th, 1906.

Sir,—It has been stated that the Diplomatic Corps at Peking have received a reply from the Chinese Government to their enquiry as to the proposed establishment of Customs Stations on the Japanese and Russian Frontiers.—It will be esteemed a favour if you will kindly communicate to this Chamber the tenor of such reply.

I would draw your attention to the fact that since this Chamber's application of the 29th August last, the disabilities under which this port is labouring have become aggravated by the Customs Regulations authorizing duty drawback on re-exports of foreign goods from Shanghai to Dalny—the natural consequence of which has been the importation through Dalny of goods destined for the Newchwang market.

This Chamber cannot too strongly urge upon you the necessity of protesting against this menace to the trade interests of this port, nor too earnestly request your assistance in restoring that equality of right and privilege secured by Treaty.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) ROSS THOMSON,
Vice-Chairman.

A. SEGAWA, Esq.
H.I.J.M.'s Consul & Doyen of the Consular Corps, Newchwang.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong 25th October, 1906.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to enclose copy of letter dated 30th August from the Newchwang Chamber of Commerce regarding the disadvantage that port is placed in the matter of import duties on goods passing into Manchuria as compared with the treatment afforded similar imports at Dalny and Vladivostock.

This Colony, like your port, has a considerable direct trade with Newchwang, and I am instructed to inquire whether your Committee have made any representations to the Diplomatic Corps at Peking with a view to remedial measures being taken to safeguard the Newchwang trade and, if so, to kindly furnish this Chamber with copies of the correspondence so that my Committee may consider whether they can render support on similar lines.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.

October 29th, 1906.

SIR,—I have the honour to bring to your notice the disabilities under which Newchwang hitherto regarded as the main artery of Manchurian trade (as it is the natural one) and where European interests both mercantile and shipping have long been predominantly established, is labouring.

One of the most important of these disabilities, to which my Committee desire to direct your particular attention, is in connection with imports via Dalny. In addition to this being a Free Port, the Imperial Maritime Customs have now decreed that foreign goods re-exported from Shanghai to Dalny are entitled to duty drawback. The natural outcome of this legislation is that goods are shipped to Newchwang via Dalny duty free whereas on direct cargoes from Shanghai to Newchwang full duties are demanded.

The result is the concurrent existence of one toll-gate and one open gate to Manchuria, an anomaly for which there appears to this Chamber no justification.

I have therefore the honour, on behalf of this Chamber, to request that you will represent to the proper authorities the urgent necessity either of constituting Newchwang a free port, until the establishment of the Imperial Chinese Customs on the Manchurian boundary of the free port of Dalny, or of the immediate establishment of such Customs control over imports from Dalny into Manchuria.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obediant servant,
HENRY KESWICK,
Chairman.

The Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Peking.

Shanghai, 30th October, 1906.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing a despatch addressed to the Diplomatic Body on the question of Manchurian trade.

I have immediately transmitted your despatch to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body and communicated its contents to my colleagues.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
D. SIFFERT,
Senior Consul.

H. KESWICK, Esq,
Chairman,
Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai.

NEW BRIDGES FOR SHANGHAI.

Recently we announced that Messrs. Howarth, Erskine and Company, of Singapore, had been ordered by the Shanghai Municipal Council to erect two new steel bridges at Shanghai at a cost of two hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The Shanghai Municipality have decided to do away with the old and insecure wooden structures known as the Garden and Chekiang bridges and replace them with new steel structures. The *Straits Times* says:—

The new Garden bridge will be a massive structure of an ornamental design in keeping with the artistic surroundings of the Bund, and will, when completed, consist of two spans of over one hundred and seventy feet each, with a main roadway of forty feet width along each side and a footway of ten feet width. Provision is made to run a double line of tram cars in the centre of the main roadway, while the entire road surface will be paved with hardwood blocks. There will be over eight hundred and sixty tons of steelwork in this bridge before it is completed.

The Chekiang bridge is of the lenticular girder type, and is to have a span of one hundred and ninety six feet. It is also of massive construction to take the load of running tram cars as well as the pedestrian and heavy street traffic. The weight of the steelwork in this bridge will be over three hundred and sixty tons. A feature in the erection of these bridges will be the method adopted in carrying on uninterruptedly the existing road and water borne traffic, and this will be no small task when one considers the amounts there really are at these points.

The *Straits Times* congratulates Messrs. Howarth, Erskine, Limited, on having obtained this contract in open competition with the leading firms, and wishes them every success in its accomplishment.

SHANGHAI ROADS CONGESTED.

There were 39 signatures to the following petition to the Shanghai Municipal Council:—

In view of the congested state of traffic now prevailing on the Nanking and Bubbling Well Roads which threat-ns to become still worse with the inauguration of the tramway service, the undersigned Ratepayers beg to address you with the request to lay before the next Meeting of Ratepayers an estimate of the probable cost of a new road, with proposals as to raising the necessary funds, running from the Bund westward.

For various reasons it would appear that the most suitable line for such a road is an extension of the Jinkee Road across the block of buildings now separating the Szechuen from the Kiangse Road into the Tientsin Road which should be widened and carried on into the Burkill Road to be connected with the Avenue Road.

With a view to adding to the feasibility of the proposed scheme, the Engineer's Department should be desired to immediately draw up lines which such road will take and to issue no further building permits for new houses interfering with such lines.

CHINESE RAILWAY FUNDS.

The *Straits Times* of November 29th says :—There has arrived in Singapore, a Chinese official named Chen Pao sung, who comes here as the emissary of the Chinese Government to induce the Chinese resident in the Straits Settlements and Java to invest money in Chinese railways. His Excellency hen, who is a Hokien, came from Swatow, and has made the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hill Street his head-quarters. The railways in which His Excellency wishes to enlist the financial support of Chinese resident abroad are chiefly in the Province of Fokien, with connections north and south into Chekiang and Kwangtung respectively. This is a district where the Chinese are of an enterprising character, and it is anticipated that the trade from the various excellent harbours on the Fokien seaboard to the interior will grow rapidly. There can be little doubt of the success of these railways —and indeed, of any railways in China—provided the disgraceful system of likin is abolished ; but without a thorough reform of China's system of taxation of goods in transit the success of the railways is problematical. We are informed that several prominent Chinese merchants in Singapore have already subscribed capital to these railways. If this is correct, we hope they have stipulated for honesty in the promotion and management, and also for something more than a promise that the native Customs tariff will be adjusted to suit the requirements of trade. If they have not done so, then we fear that the dollars subscribed in Singapore are following other similar subscriptions to the "never, never land." We do not doubt the honesty of purpose of our visitant, His Excellency Chen. Doubtless, his credentials are above suspicion. But it is a singular phenomenon of Chinese character that while they are, with notable exceptions, strictly honest and trustworthy in their individual capacity, as officials, in China, and often in corporate capacity, they are, to put it as gently as possible, not above suspicion. Why is it that Chen has to come so far afield to collect money? What explanation does he give for the failure of the rich Chinese of Kwangtung and Fokien to support his railway schemes?

A part altogether from questions of honesty and of the restricting effects of extortionate native officials, there arises the question whether the Chinese who toy with railway schemes are really fit to carry them to successful concerns. This is a point that will surely occur to Straits-born Chinese, and to those enterprising and industrious sons of Sinim who have acquired wealth in Malaya and the neighbouring Dutch possessions. We are moved to refer to it, however, by the timely arrival of the interim report of the China Association for 1906-7. Here we have the record of the tortuous methods of a typical Chinese official, His Excellency Shum, the ex-Viceroy of the two Kwang. For no other reason apparently, than because the British authorities were anxious to have Hongkong connected with Canton by rail, Shum sought by every subterfuge in his power to retard the progress of the line. A few days ago, it was announced that the agreement for the construction of the connecting line from Kowloon to Canton hanging fire for so long, had at last been signed, the announcement being made almost simultaneously with Shum's departure and Chou Fu's arrival. Shum was not content with obstructing the advance of the British line. He endeavoured to secure the prior construction of the short line from Canton to Whampoa, a scheme which would have damaged the prospects of the British line without ensuring much chance of success for the other. There is no reason why Chinese, if they can raise the capital and can utilise it profitably, should not have a multiplicity of railway lines; but blind hostility to foreign enterprise is criminally foolish, while the most conservative Chinese official must recognise that native lines are more likely to be successful if they connect with foreign countries and settlements where trade is carried on than by running to badly situated and little frequented ports. We are not so certain that His Excellency Chen is not the official who advised Shum to open Whampoa as a Treaty Port, the object being to destroy Hongkong as the port of South China. If he is identical with "H.E. Cheang Pat-se" referred to in the extract from the "She Man Po" of April 2nd, 1906—published elsewhere in this issue,—then we would advise our Chinese friends "in the various ports of the Southern Ocean to exercise the most rigid care before embarking their capital in the railways of Fokien. The Chinese of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, who owe their success in life to the free and generous conditions under which they live, under the British flag, will surely hesitate before giving financial support to a Chinese official who endeavoured to cripple the development of a neighbouring British Colony.

The following extract from the "She Man Po, a Chinese newspaper published in Hongkong, was sent to the China Association :—

The Canton-Amoy Railway is the main line joining the two provinces of Kwang Tung and Fokien. H.E. Cheung Pat-Sz., 6th, or 7th, moon last year, discussed with Viceroy Shum the method of its construction. They drew up 21 general regulations, which have been sanctioned by their Imperial Majesties through the Board of Commerce. On the receipt of a telegram in reply from the Board in the 10th moon, H. E. Cheung left Canton en route to different places, first to Whampoa, and then to Tsang Shing, Tung Kun, Shek Lung, Pok Lo, Hoi Fung, Luk Fung, Chiu Chau, Swatow Fokien (Foochow ?), and Amoy, and took with him surveyors and engineers to survey the route. When this task was completed in the 2nd moon of the present year, he interviewed Viceroy Shum and proposed to him that Whampoa should be opened as a treaty port ; there is ample room in the neighbourhood. It is near the water, which is of considerable depth, and the steamers plying between Hongkong and Canton pass it. He proposed that the construction of the first section between Canton and Whampoa should immediately be put in hand, and that, in the meantime, an embankment should be erected at Whampoa for the purpose of opening it as an international treaty port. Besides a very large railway station there should be built houses in European style, business premises, Government offices, godowns and wharves. All these should be carried out after the precedent in Shan Tung, where there is a treaty port opened by (China) herself, where all nations are at liberty to carry on business, and their ships can freely lie at anchor and be loaded or unloaded. The estimated cost of opening this treaty port, which will extend more than 3 li along the line of railway, will be between 800,000 and 900,000 taels, including cost of land and materials. At first it was proposed to divide the estimated cost for this and the railway into 8,000 shares of 100 taels each, and to invite the Fokien and Kwang Tung merchants in the various ports in the Southern Ocean (*i.e.* Straits Settlements, Australia and other places) to take shares. But, later on, as Viceroy Shum was in a hurry to get this done, H.E. Cheung took the responsibility upon himself, of saying that the money could be advanced although the shares had not yet been taken up. The necessary cost of building the railway, too, was to be temporarily borne by the Authorities on condition that the money (for making Whampoa a treaty port and the construction of railway thus expended) should be repaid when the shares were taken up. When Cheung had settled the above with the Viceroy Shum in the conference he returned to Chiu Chau, his native place, to see about the funds, and as soon as he gets enough funds he will come to Canton to commence work. He will begin with the section between Canton and Whampoa and with all work in connection with the opening of the latter as a treaty port and the construction of the embankment. In the meantime he will telegraph to the various towns in the Southern Ocean to immediately take up shares in the Canton Amoy Railway, which is a main line, so that he can continuously work section after section. We further hear that part of the railway between Amoy and Chiu Chau is considered to be the main line for the Fokien Province, and the funds for the construction are to be raised from the Fokien people, and the funds for building the Kwang Tung main line between Canton and Chiu Chau are to be raised from the Kwangtung merchants. The scheme is first to commence work on the section from Canton to Whampoa and then on to those passing through Tsang Shing, Tung Kun, Shek Lung, Pok Lo, Hoi Fung, and Luk Fung, to Chiu Chau, and, at the same time, work will be commenced from Amoy to Chiu Chau, where a large railway station shall be built, being a station for the use of both provinces. All districts along which the railway passes shall also have stations for the convenience of passengers and goods.

(Editor of the "She Man Po":—Railways are closely connected with treaty ports. By this movement, H.E. Cheung may be said to have caught hold of the very clue. It is to be hoped that the railway shares will be taken up as eagerly as those of the Canton-Hankow Railway. The only apprehension is that the terms "Official Management" and "Management by Merchants" have not been clearly defined. I write this with great pleasure. I wish to see what the future will be.)

In a letter to the parent Association in London, enclosing the above extract, Mr. Murray Stewart, Chairman of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association writes:—

"I enclose copy of a letter received from the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, and of the enclosure therein mentioned. The man entitled H.E. Cheung Pat-sz is the same individual as Chang described in my letter of the 21st April, 1905, as the moving spirit of the watow-Chou-Chou-Fu Railway. The document at any rate shows that our impressions of a year ago were fairly accurate as regards Chinese aspirations, and it is still probable that these have much to do with the Viceroy's obstinate attitude towards the Kowloon-Canton concession."

MEDICAL MISADVENTURE AT MANILA.

The following from the *Cablenews* explains a recent telegram :—

The Governor General has issued an official statement of the unfortunate accident that occurred in Bilibid prison recently. The report explains the situation fully and is as follows :—On November 16th Dr. R. P. Strong, Chief of the Biological Laboratory of the Bureau of Science, inoculated twenty-four prisoners in Bilibid Prison with an anti-cholera vaccine, with which he made inoculations before, and the use of which is well-known in several countries in Europe, particularly in Spain where inoculations of this kind have been made with beneficial results.

On November 18th and 19th two and three days after the inoculation, a number of these twenty-four prisoners became acutely ill, and on the evening of the following day, November 26th, two of them died, apparently from the results of the inoculation. Subsequently on various days, seven more prisoners died in the prison hospital, and one prisoner, whose sentence had expired and who had been released from Bilibid, died on November 21st at 152 San Jose.

These inoculations were made by Dr. Strong under authority dated March 1st, 1904, which authorization was for "the carrying on, under the supervision of the Director of the Biological Laboratory, of the investigation among inmates of Bilibid Prison with reference to diseases which prevail among them, as outlined within."

Since this authority was granted, over half the prisoners in Bilibid have been inoculated against cholera without any harmful results whatever.

All these cases of death were promptly referred to the Coroner for proper action by him, and upon his instructions, autopsies had been made in each instance. An investigation is now being made under his direction to determine the exact cause of death in each instance, and upon that information being obtained, the coroner will render the verdict required by law.

It appears that probably these deaths have resulted from the anti-cholera vaccine which was used, having in some way become contaminated with plague germs while the vaccine was being prepared in the government Laboratories. A number of years ago, thousands of inoculations with this same anti-cholera vaccine were made by Dr. Ferran in Spain, and similar instances of contamination occurred and some

deaths resulted I wish it understood, however, that the accidents which resulted from this inoculation were not due to the method itself but to the contamination of the vaccine just before final preparation. No test as to whether the vaccine has been contaminated can be made on animals for the reason that the Ferran virus must be prepared for use and used while fresh.

Immediately after being notified that the prisoners inoculated had become sick, Dr. Strong laid the matter before the proper authorities for investigation and action by them.

It is needless to say that Dr. Strong is grieved beyond measure at the unfortunate accident which occurred with these twenty-four inoculations. Dr. Strong has made, in the past few years, thousands of inoculations with anti-cholera and anti-plague vaccine, and never before have any untoward results followed. These particular inoculations were made on his own responsibility under the authority above described and were in no way authorized by or participated in by the Director of Health or by the Director of the Bureau of Science.

I am immeasurably grieved at the unfortunate result of this accident, and it is unnecessary to add that every possible step has been and will be taken by the government to care for the other patients who have suffered from this inoculation, and to relieve as far as possible, any distress which may have been caused the families of those who have been affected.

SIR ROBERT HART'S CIRCULAR.

OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED.

In the "Customs Quarterly Gazette" for July-September 1906, published on November 26th from the Statistical Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs, the following notification appeared :—

Circular No. 1,369.

Inspectorate-General of Customs.

Peking September 22nd.

Circulars Nos. 1,339 and 1,361 acquainted you with the establishment and opening of a separate and special office to deal with Customs affairs. The Inspectorate, which had hitherto functioned in and under the Tsungli Yamên and Waiwupu, was thereon accordingly instructed to report henceforth to, and take its orders from the new department, the Shuiwuch'u. The two Tach'ên, appointed to control the Shuiwuch'u, Their Excellencies T'ieh-Liang and T'ang Shao-yi, explained to me on two separate occasions, on the 12th and 15th May, that work was to proceed as before, and they now authorize me to circulate this intimation as an order for the information of the Service generally. While the Inspector General will have the same relations with the Shuiwuch'u that he had with the Waiwupu and his duties continue to follow the same general lines, Commissioners and port staff will also continue to work just as before and remain in the same relation to the Inspector-General. Further, seeing that this explanation should dispel apprehensions expressed since the appearance of the Customs Edict on the 9th May, the members of the Service are to avoid originating or circulating, whether by mouth or pen, disturbing rumours and hypothetical fears calculated to provoke public comment to no useful purpose, but which may do more harm than good as affecting the dignity of the Chinese Government. The Maritime Customs worked satisfactorily, efficiently, and usefully in the past, and the Chinese Government has been considerate and liberal in its dealings with its foreign employés; it is not intended to change such treatment and it is expected that Service contentment and efficiency will march hand in hand with its continuance. I may add that this Customs Circular has been submitted to, and approved of, by the Shuiwu Ta-chên before issue.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT HART,

Inspector-General.

To the Commissioners of Customs,
Postal Commissioners,
And Deputy Commissioners in
charge of Likin Collectorates.

C.

Shui-wu Ta-chen to Inspector-General
(Translation.)

"We have to acknowledge your dispatch of the 12th October, stating that in connection with the transfer of Customs control you had received our verbal directions on the 22nd of September to issue instructions, in accordance with the draft submitted, for the information and guidance of the Commissioners of Customs, to the effect that the procedure is to continue in every respect as hitherto, and that, having issued a Circular to all the ports embodying those instructions, you now forwarded two copies of the same for record.

"We thereon sent one copy, with a Chinese version, to the Waiwupu, and have received a reply stating that the contents of the Circular have been duly noted, and that you are to be instructed to publish the same in the 'Customs Gazette' for the general information of all officials concerned; you will therefore act accordingly."

30th October, 1906.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The current issue of the *Gazette* has a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the period ended 30th September, 1906. At the outset it is satisfactory to note that the actual expenditure is well under that which was estimated, and the satisfaction would have been increased had as good a state of things been found under the heading of revenue. The actual revenue was $5,014,109 representing a slight advance on that of the same period in the preceding year, and falling rather more than $2,000,000 under the estimate for 1906. On the other hand the actual expenditure amounted to $4,986,464, a slight decrease on that for the same period of the preceding year, and falling by rather more than $2,000,000 under the estimate for 1906. Of course it will have to be borne in mind that these increases and decreases are more apparent than real. Turning now to the heads of revenue, we find decreases recorded in two items, namely: Interest, a decrease of $8,267 and water account, $61,089, though including land sales a further decline of $118,971 is found. Against this total decrease of $188,328, there is a total increase of $215,335 contributed to as follows.—light dues, $1,771; licences etc., $57,302; fees of Court or office, etc., $31,835; Post Office, $3,326; rent of Government property, etc., $117,166; miscellaneous receipts, $3,931. Under the heading of expenditure are comparatively few increases, the greatest being found in Public Works Extraordinary and in the Harbour Master's Department, which is probably explained by typhoon damages and extra work. In the Judicial and Legal Departments there is an increase in expenditure of almost $5,000, and the Medical Departments have absorbed $2,743 more than in the previous year. The other column of figures reveals a large number of items which have entailed less expenditure than before, the most notable coming under the head of Post Office, and amounting to $211,382. There is a decrease of $71,508 in the Military contribution; the Police and Prison Departments have been run at less cost than last year by $30,644, and the miscellaneous services have absorbed $45,714 less than in the previous year.

THE SEOUL TELEPHONE SERVICE

In pursuance of usage in vogue since the establishment of the Japanese Legation, the authorities of the Residency-General in Korea have established telephone service in Seoul and to some extent the telephones are available to the public. We learn from Japanese contemporaries that Mr. Collbran, president of the American Korean Electric Company, operating the electric railway and lighting plant in Seoul, has repeatedly protested against the telephone service being conducted under the control of the Residency-General, on the ground that his company hold a special charter for establishing and conducting a telephone service in Seoul.

The question is assuming such an important aspect that it is expected that Mr. Luke E. Wright, the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo, and the Foreign Office will take up the matter with a view to early settlement.

THE NEW SWATOW RAILWAY.

The Swatow correspondent of the *N-C. Daily News* sent the following account of the Ch'ao-Shan, Ch'aochoufu-Swatow Railway, opened formally on November 28th:—A large company of natives and foreigners was present at the station, and many of these found places in the train which left for Ch'aochoufu at eleven o'clock. The band of H.I.M.S. Jaguar accompanied the party, and enlivened the trip. After spending half-an-hour at the inland terminus the company returned to Swatow, and, at the terminus there, found a tiffin awaiting them. Speeches were made by the Taotai, the British Consul, the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Richardson, and other guests. The Taotai drew attention to the happy coincidence of the function and the Empress's birthday. He regarded the opening of the line as marking another stage in China's advance, and only a stage for it cannot be long before this line is connected on the one hand with the trunk line to Hankow, and on the other hand with the coast line from Canton to Foochow and further. He also considered that not the least important result of the railway-building was the dispelling of such prejudice as led to the murder of two of the constructing staff last year. In conclusion he wished success to the railway, coupling with it in the toast the names of the original promoters Chang Yung-hsien and his nephew.

The line is twenty-three and a half miles long or thirty miles including sidings. There are two termini, and four other stations. Throughout its whole course the line is practically level, with no deep cuttings. The only bridge of any size spans the north, or Ampou branch of the Han river, about two miles from Swatow. The greatest difficulty encountered was the number of small streams and water outlets which had to be spanned by culverts. The embankment is mainly composed of field mud dug up close to the line, and ballast is sparingly used. The rolling stock is sufficient for present needs, but not abundant; and one, at least, of the engines has done service elsewhere. The roofs of the railway sheds are supported on wooden pillars sunk into the earth, a most perilous venture in this land of white ants. There is a good deal of shoddy about the carriages —rough castings, inferior veneer, imitation "leather" on the cushions. The construction has taken two years to a day, and has cost, up to date, close on three million dollars. A first-class English firm tendered to do the whole for one million and three-quarters, but the Chinese elected to give carte-blanche to a Japanese company, with the present result.

The administration of the railway is well organized, and the trains are punctual. If the embankment survives the rains (the sceptical draw attention to the fact that it has been observed in the middle of the driest weather) it will develop trade, and inspire further extension; but not, we should judge, under existing auspices, if experience teaches anything.

DUTY ON KOREAN AND CHINESE GOODS.

The Japanese *Official Gazette* contains the following Imperial Ordinance, No. 303, in regard to the application of the Conventional Tariffs on the Korean and Chinese products:—

"Import duties on articles produced in Korea, and also pig-iron, tin in ingot or slab, and mercury produced in China shall be imposed according to the rates of the Conventinal Tariff. In such cases as the duty in the General Statutory Tariff is lower, the duty shall be imposed according to the same tariff.

"Articles I. & II. of the Regulations relating to the operation of the Customs Tariff Law will be applied to the articles referred to in the preceding clause."

This Ordinance came into effect on December 1st.

Meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of November show that the average maximum temperature for that month was 73.4 and the minimum 62.4 degrees. The total rainfall was 0.175 inches.

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st December :—

LEVEL.

	1905. Below overflow.	1906. Below overflow.
Tytam	11 ft. 3 in.	1 ft. 5½ in
Byewash	28 ft. 3 in.	28 ft. 1½ in
Pokfulam	17 ft. 3½ in.	6 ft. 7½ in
Wongnaicheong.	45 ft. 3 in.	6 ft. 6 in

STORAGE GALLONS.

	1905.	1906.
Tytam	295,900,000	372,550,000
Byewash	nil.	nil,
Pokfulam	29,540,000	50,550,000
Wongnaicheong	nil.	22,173,000
Total	325,440,000	445,273,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

	1905.	1906.	
Consumption ...	116,409,000	100,961,000	gallons
Estimated population	230,900	235,700	
Consumption per head per day	16.8	14.0	gallon

Intermittent supply to the whole of the Rider Main Districts during November 1906 and to the Western and Central Rider Main Districts during November 1905, the laying of the Rider Mains being then incomplete.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	1905.	1906.	
Consumption ...	15,224,000	14,095,000	gallons
Estimated population	76,350	82,000	
Consumption per head per day	6.6	5.7	gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S HEALTH.

REASSURING BULLETIN.

We have been asked to publish the following telegrams, which explain themselves :—

From Governor, Hongkong, to Secretary of State, dated 3rd December, 1906. "Doctors strongly advise my handing over Government to May immediately on his arrival on 8th December and leaving for change to Java on 15th December returning 20th January. Please telegraph if I should act on this advice."

Reply from the Secretary of State, dated 4th December, 1906. "In reply to your telegram of yesterday's date act on advice of doctors Hope you will defer return to work until quite recovered."

The following bulletin was issued by the Doctors on December 9th :—

"His Excellency the Governor has maintained the improvement of last week, and will therefore be able to leave the Colony on Saturday the 15th as arranged."

We heartily wish His Excellency a speedy return to health and to Hongkong.

DOUBLE WEDDING.

The Ven. Archdeacon Bannister performed a double wedding service on Dec. 6th at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, when two well-known workers for the Church Missionary Society espoused two ladies who arrived together by the German mail. Miss A. Stoddard, who had as bridesmaid a shipboard friend, Miss Maitland, bound for Amoy, became the wife of the Rev. P. Jenkins, who was supported by Mr. S. F. Ricketts. Miss M. Doherty, for whom Miss Stewart of St. Paul's College was bride-maid, was married to Mr. J. Parker, whose best man was the Rev. A. Stewart Both ladies were given away by the Rev. G. A. Bunbury. Mrs. Bunbury held a really happy reception at No. 2, College Gardens, afterwards.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total receipts into the Treasury between January 1st and September 30th amounted to $30,441,015.75, while the payments out were $27,574,669.41, leaving a credit balance of $2,866,346.34. In the statement of assets and liabilities prepared by the Colonial Treasurer for the same period there is a surplus of assets over liabilities of $163,581.25, the total assets being $901,398.34 and the liabilities $737,817.09.

A project is mooted by some who evidently wish to keep pace with Shanghai, to promote an International walking match in Hongkong. The proprietors of a hotel have offered a silver tankard as first prize, on the understanding that the course finishes at their house! This trumpery arrangement cannot be mentioned in the same breath with Shanghai's competition, which is a public event, but not a public-house event.

The conclusion of the Russo-Japanese railway convention concerning the boundary point of the respective portions of the Chinese Eastern Railway has already been reported. The *Asahi's* correspondent at Changchun reports that he has learned on very good authority that the railway negotiations have ended very favourably to Japan. It is said to have been decided that the present Changchun station and the land connected with it, an area of 2,000,000 tsubo, with about three hundred buildings on it, will be handed over to Japan. The coal mine and colliery railway at Taochiatun will also be transferred to that country.

The Governor in Council has under section 39 of the Tramways Ordinance, 1902, (Ordinance No. 10 of 1902), approved the absolute assignment by the Hongkong Tramway Electric Co., Ltd (in Liquidation), of the whole of their undertaking as defined by the Ordinance to the Electric Traction Company of Hongkong, Ld. and has further approved of the assignment by way of Mortgage by the Electric Traction Company of Hongkong, Ld. of the whole of their undertaking as defined by the Ordinance to the United Exploration Company, Ld. as security for the repayment of certain Mortgage debentures of the undertaking.

We learn that Dr. Frederich Kruger, who for the past two or three years has been the Consul for Germany in Hongkong, will shortly be leaving the Colony to take charge of the Consulate-General at Seoul, Korea. Since the beginning of the year there have been no Legations in Korea, and Consulates-General have been established in their place. While not only the local German community but his many other friends will congratulate Dr. Kruger upon his promotion the loss of Dr. and Mrs. Kruger will be much regretted, for both are widely respected and esteemed in the Colony. Dr. Kruger's successor in Hongkong has not yet, we understand, been appointed.

The police are investigating what looks like a malicious attempt to set fire to premises at 28 Nullah Lane, Wanchai. An opium divan keeper, whose place is on the ground floor, happened to notice the glimmer of a light through the partition between the divan and the staircase, and rushing out he found the stairway on fire, the flames mounting rapidly. With the assistance of the fokis he extinguished the flames, and afterwards called the police, who found the staircase saturated with kerosene and strewn with shavings. As the place was uninsured, no suspicion rested on the divan keeper, and the police are of the opinion that the act was prompted by revenge on the part of some outsider.

A fire broke out at midnight on Dec. 1st on the premises occupied by Mr. H. M. Silkiss at 9 Boone Road, Shanghai, as a billiard room and boarding-house. The brigade attended but were unable to save the property, while Nos. 8 and 10 were also considerably damaged by fire and water. There was a sensational sequel to the fire next day, when Detective-Inspector McDowell arrested Mr. Silkiss on suspicion of arson. The premises destroyed were insured with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company for Tls. 8,000 and it is stated that at the time of the fire there were hardly any contents of value. The accused is a Russian subject and has resided in Shanghai for some years. He was charged before his Consul in the afternoon, but the press were excluded.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. courteously inform us that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Shanghai, that the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. has declared a dividend of Tls. 10 per share. The transfer books of the Company will be closed from Dec. 10th.

The ceremony of cutting the first sod of the Chêkiang Railway took place at Chiangkan on November 14th and several congratulatory speeches were made by high officials and gentry of Hanchow to celebrate the occasion, a large gathering of officials, gentry and commonalty being present. The opening speech was made by H. E. Liu Chêngtsao, Vice-Director-General of the Chêkiang Railway.

The Manila *Cablenews* says :—Secretary of War Taft has decided that Chinese editors, sub-editors, and pressmen should be considered in the exempt class and are to be admitted to the Philippines accordingly. Some time ago Yeung Ü Kai, a prominent member of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, made application to import editors and pressmen for the purpose of operating a Chinese paper. This application was rejected by the collector of customs and sustained by the secretary of finance and justice. Appeal was taken to the secretary of war and Mr. Taft sustained the appeal by cable.

An Imperial Decree dated November 28th says :—The Ministry of the Interior (Mingchenpu) reports that the Gruel Relief Station at Kuachiatun, outside Peking, has been changed into a Free Industrial School for children of the poorer classes (Chiaoyangchü) and asks for a grant of rice from the imperial granaries to support the parents of the inmates during the Winter season. By special act of imperial grace we hereby grant the said free industrial school 300 shih (one shih equals 166 catties) of rice, which is to be handed to the gentry in charge of the institution for distribution among those needing relief during the cold weather.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Report of Nov. 24th, 1906, states :—Black Tea.—No business to report. Green Tea.—Pingsuey.—The volume of business done has been small, prices continue steady. Country Tea.—A few purchases have been made at a slight reduction on previous rates. As soon as the small stock on offer has been cleared off, this market will be closed for the season. Hysons.—Medium quality has been in demand at Tls. 21.23 per picul, and "Good" Medium Tea at Tls. 24.26 per picul, showing excellent value.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, December 8th.

Quotations are :—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	$820	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	$880	to —	do.
Malwa Older	$940	to —	do.
Malwa Very Old	$980	to —	do.
Persian Fine Quality ..	$650	to —	do.
Persian Extra Fine ...	$720	to —	do.
Patna New	$947½	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	$—	to —	do.
Benares New	$892½	to —	do.
Benares Old	$—	to —	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 29th November, 1906, states :—According to latest advices certain points have been agreed to in the conditions the Japanese are trying to enforce before they give up the administration of Newchwang, but the most salient have yet to be settled, and the date for the final retrocession is still further postponed. Meanwhile the Port is now closed, the River being blocked with ice. The cold snap has come somewhat suddenly and rather earlier than usual in the North, as the River Peiho is already presenting difficulties to navigation on account of the ice, and it seems likely

steamers will not be able to go beyond Tongku, unless there is another mild spell. A representative of American industry, who has just returned here from Manchuria, where he has been making a tour of inspection during the last two months, gives, as his opinion, that it will be some time after April before trade there is properly resumed. The Country people are, at the moment, in affluent circumstances and are paying more attention to rebuiding and fixing their dwellings than to buying and selling foreign goods, but he is quite convinced that the demand for such will come eventually, and does not believe in the power of the Japanese to usurp a much larger proportion of the trade. There is nothing new to report of the River trade. The water is falling rapidly in the Yangtsze and the country will no doubt benefit considerably by its fertilising influence, though the floods have caused great distress in many districts as is evidenced by the crowds of starving refugees who are coming even as far as this to seek relief. The Manchester market is reported to be very firm with a good business doing for other countries than China, the demand for India, especially, being well maintained. Cotton has taken a sudden jump in Liverpool 6.21d for Mid-American, private telegrams giving it as 6.17d. Egyptian is firmer at 9⅛d. Private advices concerning the American crop estimate the total at 12,000,000 bales, the higher grades, owing to damage to the crops, being comparatively scarce and relatively dearer. We have not heard of any advices of the New York market. The current business in spot cargo is quite at a standstill, except at the Auctions, which are, to all appearances, going to benefit by the disagreement between the merchants and local dealers, prices to-day showing a steady improvment in most of the staple makes of Cotton goods. With the exception of these public sale purchases clearances have been very poor, and no fresh business is being done, barring a few specialities in Fancy makes. There are rumours of trouble amongst some of the import houses of Indian yarn, but no particulars have as yet been made public. The strain must certainly be very great, and few can have escaped with a whole skin. Meanwhile the market here appears to be steadying up somewhat, especially for No. 16s, which are wanted for Szechen. Japanese spinnings are steady to firm and the higher counts of local yarns are slightly better in the retail market. Native Cotton is fairly steady, the growers, apparently, are nursing the market. The resumption of shipments last month to Dalny (the customs Authorities keep to the old name) shows that Japanese Sheetings predominate, though we understand that the whole shipment which consisted of English Sheetings and Amerian Sheetings and Drills as well, was made through a Japanese Company established here, in conjunction with some other firms, to test the feasibility of that route. Grey Shirtings.—At the Auctions 8.4 lbs. have shown a lack of demand and prices were inclined to be lower if anything; but 7 lbs. and the heavier makes all show a firmer tendency. White Shirtings.—The ordinary reed makes were all firmer this morning, and the better cloths either show steady or slightly higher prices. The White Irishes and T-Cloths both improved as well. T-Cloths and Jeans.—The chop of the former that advanced so much last week has fallen back, while the others have recovered! Jeans are without much change. Drills and Sheetings.—There is scarcely anything doing; judging by the clearances there is very little consumptive demand. Fancy Goods.—Some 50 cases Turkey Reds have been bought from first hands, privately, at poor prices, otherwise the bulk of the business, which is decidedly small, is in indents, mostly for arrival well on in the Autumn of next year, Excepting for the lightest weight the Turkey Reds at auction this morning were firmer. For the Fast Black Cotton Italians on the other hand the tendency was decidedly to weaker prices. Woollens.—The auction sales continue to show the same incongruities, especially in Camlets, which it is very difficult to account for, but Long Ells, Lastings and Spanish Stripes are all consistently lower this week, especially the first named.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

COTTON YARN.—Market opened at irregular rates and a decline of about $10 to $12 for No. 10s, $8 to $10 for No. 12s, and $5 to $7 for No. 20s, has taken place. Sales of about 2,000 bales are reported to have been made. Quotations are —No. 10s at $75 to $95; No. 16s, at $102 to $126; and No. 20s. at $103 to $132. Arrivals 18,500 bales; sales 2,000 bales; shipments 11,500 bales; bargains 75,000 bales. Unsold stock 92,000.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20,	$80.00	to	$125.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,	135.00	to	140.00
„ 22 to 24,	140.00	to	145.00
„ 28 to 32,	150.00	to	155.00
„ 38 to 42,	160.00	to	165.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Market flat. Nothing doing.

	per piece		
Grey Shirtings—7 lbs.	$2.40	to	$2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.00	to	3.70
9 to 10 lbs.	4.00	to	4.80
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.70	to	2.90
58 to 60 „	3.00	to	3.20
64 to 66 „	3.25	to	5.30
Fine	5.50	to	7.00
Book-folds	5.00	to	7.75
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60	to	1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y)	2.00	to	2.20
7lbs. 32 „ „	2.25	to	3.75
6lbs. 32 „ (Mexs).	2.20	to	2.35
7lbs. 32 „ „	2.40	to	3.05
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in.	3.00	to	3.70
Drills, English—40 yds., 13¾ to 14 lbs.	4.50	to	7.25

FANCY COTTON—Small sales. Market quiet.

	per piece		
Turkey Red Shirtings—1¼ to 8 lbs.	$1.75	to	$4.50

	per yard		
Brocades—Dyed	$0.12	to	$0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07½	to	0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	0.23	to	0.45
Velveteens—18 in.,	0.22½	to	0.25

	per doz.		
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	$0.60	to	$1.50

WOOLLENS—Market sick. Small sales.

	per yard		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	$0.65	to	—

	per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	$7.75	to	$9.35
Assorted	7.90	to	9.50
Camlets—Assorted	12.50	to	31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches Assorted	13.00	to	19.50
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	9.00	to	10.00

	per lb.		
Blankets—7 to 11 lbs.	$0.65	to	$1.50

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	$3.95
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)	3.90
Swedish Bar	4.00
Small Round Rod	4.50
Hoop ⅜ to 1¼ in	5.50
Wire, 16 25 oz.	9.00
Wire Rope, Old	3.00
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	11.10
Australian	11.00
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	44.00
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.,	44.00
Elliots, 14/20 oz.	44.00
Tin,	100.00

	per box
Tin-Plates,	$6.20

	per picul
Quicksilver,	$111.00

	per box
Window Glass,	$3.75

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, Dec. 10th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/2 1/16
Bank Bills, on demand	2/3
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/3 1/16
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/3 1/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3⅛
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3⅛
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	284
Credits 4 months' sight	284½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	230½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	54⅛
Credits, 60 days' sight	55⅛
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	110½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	110½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	3⅛ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	135½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m
ON SAIGON—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON BANG OK.—	
On demand	62½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$8.80
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	$46.70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	32

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 26th Nov., 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—Good demand, market a little easier. Good business done. Cowhides.—Prices asked for by Chinese continue very high which made export business nearly impossible. Tobacco.—Prices are unchanged, little cargo offering. Feathers.—Arrivals continue small and only a few transactions have been made on account of the small stocks. Cotton.—Our market continues at a level that makes it impossible to do anything with Europe. Tallow.—Vegt. white little demand from Europe. Animal—no offers obtainable at present. Vegt. green. The high prices demanded by Chinese dealers make business to Europe impossible. Strawbraid.—Split Straw plain is again in demand at advancing prices for medium and coarse. White plain braids are in demand at somewhat lower prices, but dealers are not as yet ready to discount the rise in exchange. In general the quality of all goods is not up to the standard of former years. Goatskin Rugs.—No business reported. Wool.—Sheep's.—First arrivals of the usual autumn supplies have come to hand, but buyers refuse to pay the prices asked. Sales have been very limited. Camel's.—There is still a good demand, and the market remains very firm. Goat's.—Nothing doing. Wood Oil.—The Hankow market remains firm, although there is not much demand from Europe. Antimony.—No buyers at the present high prices.

HANKOW, 28th Nov., 1906:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

		Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls.	38.50
Do. Seconds	„	34.75
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	„	23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	„	70.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	„	7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	„	10.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	„	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	„	11.50
Jute	„	5.25
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	„	9.70
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	„	9.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	„	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	„	10.00
Animal Tallow	„	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	„	15.20
Do. Plum do.	„	16.25
Tobacco, Tingchow	„	7.00
Do. Wongkong	„	10.00
Black Bristles	„	(nom.)
Feathers, Grey and or White Duck	„	(„)
„ „ „ Wild Duck	„	(„)
Turmeric	„	5.00
Sesamum Seed	„	5.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	„	10.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	„	(nom.)
Wood Oil	„	8.30
Tea Oil	„	10.00

Per P. & O. steamer *Sumatra*, sailed on 5th December. For Glasgow:—3 cases woodware, 4 cases chinaware. For Liverpool:—1,312 bales hemp. For Marseilles:—100 boxes tea, 100 bales waste silk, 4 cases hats. For London:—10 cases cigars, 3,112 bales hemp, 399 packages preserves, 76 bales waste silk, 1 case chinaware, 1 case enamel ware, 25 cases woodware, 12 cases camphorwood trunks, 1,417 boxes tea, 2 cases silk, 2 cases private effects, 412 packages merchandise, 10 cases bristles, 1 bale ivory, 1 case bicycles, 1 case wood chairs.

Per steamer *Deucalion*, sailed on 20th Nov For Havre, London, Hamburg or Antwerp:—55 cases bristles. For Harve, London or Hamburg:—215 bales canes. For Smyrna:—20 cases palm leaf fans. For Odessa:—34 bales galangal. For London:—118 cases camphor, 4 cases cigars, 5 bales leaf tobacco, 45 cases shells, 18 cases hats, 100 bales waste silk, 396 cases chinaware, &c., 750 bales canes, 334 rolls matting, 150 casks soy, 64 bales feathers, 300 cases ginger. For London or Glasgow:—750 cases preserves, 100 casks ginger. For London or Leith:—150 cases ginger. For London, Hamburg or Antwerp:—20 cases bristles. For Glasgow:—63 bales canes, 250 casks preserves. For Dundee:—50 bales tea mats. For Leith:—150 cases ginger. For Hamburg:—500 bales canes, 60 bales feathers, 173 bales canes, 15 cases tea mats. For Amsterdam:—300 rolls matting. Rotterdam:—85 rolls matting, 170 cases cassia. For Antwerp:—200 bales split bamboo, 25 rolls matting.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th December, 1906.—A fair business has been transacted during the week, but it has been confined to a few stocks, and rates have not altered to any appreciable extent. Exchange on London closes at 2s. 2 1/32d, and on Shanghai at 72⅞.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been placed at $805, in small lots, and close steady at that rate. Nationals can still be placed at $17, but no shares are changing hands.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found buyers at $762½, and close with further buyers at that. Cantons have been placed at $300, with more shares avilable at the rate. China Traders remain unchanged with buyers at $95. Yangstzes have fallen to $160, with sales in the North and probable further sellers. North Chinas are wanted in small lots at quotation, but somewhat larger parcels are obtainable.

FIRE INSURANCES.—We have no business to report under this heading, while rates remain unchanged.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled weaker, and sellers at $27½, failing to meet with any response, the rate fell to $27, at which shares are obtainable at the close. Indos have also eased up a little, and after further sales at $80 the market declined to $79, at which latter rate a few shares changed hands, the market closing at $79½. Shells have ruled weaker, and sellers at 30s 6d have met with no response. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed during the week at $140.

MINING.—We have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue neglected and without any business, sellers ruling the market at $105. Kowloon Wharves have been in demand without finding any sellers, and beyond a very small sale at $90 in the early part of the week we have no business to report. The market closes firm at $91, and for small lots of shares $92 would probably be paid. New Amoy Docks continue unchanged and without business. Shanghai Docks declined during the week to Tls. 104, but recovered later, and close steady at Tls 107.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found several small buyers at $105, and the market closes steady at that rate with probable buyers. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of Ewos, which have declined to Tls. 75 and Soy-Chees, which have advanced to Tls. 335, we have nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have found buyers at $9.15 & $9.25, closing with buyers at the former rate. Green Islands have been negotiated at $19½ and later at $20, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate, with an upward tendency. Steam Waterboats have been placed at the improved rate of $7½, and Watsons have slightly improved to $11.75 ex div. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Aibambra	$200	$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shai..	$125	$805 sales & sel.
		London, £93. 10s.
National B of China A. Shares	£6	$47, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co'.....	$12	$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co	$10	$10, sellers
China Provident	$10	$9.15, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls 75
Hongkong	$10	$13, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 89
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 335, buyers
Dairy Farm	$6	$17
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G	$50	$91, buyers
H. & W. Dock	$50	$150, sellers
New Amoy Dock..	$64	$163, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ld	Tls. 50	Tls 107
Shai & H. Wharf..	Tls. 100	Tls. 227
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	$25	$22, sellers
G. Island Cement. ...	$10	$24, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas..	£10	$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	$10	$15, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways..	$100	$215
Hongkong Hotel Co....	$50	$112½
Hongkong Ice Co.....	$25	$230, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co...	$10	$22, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	$50	$7½, sales
Insurances—		
Canton.	$50	$300, sales & sel.
China Fire.....	$20	$95, sellers
China Traders	$25	$95, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	$50	$333
North China.....	£5	Tls. 85
Union	$100	$762½, sales
Yangtsze	$60	$160
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	$100	$105, sales
Humphreys' Estate	$10	$11½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B	$30	$30 sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50 / Tls. 25	Tls. 96, x. n. issue / Tls. 56, n. issue.
West Point Building	$50	$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fes. 250	$150, nominal
Raubs.....	18 10	$8½
Philippine Co.	$10	$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar.....	$100	$140, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	$100	$22, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	$25	$23, sellers
Douglas Steamship	$50	$40, sellers
H., Canton & M. ...	$15	$27, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co	£10	$79
Shell Transport Co	£1	30/6, sellers
Star Ferry	$10	$26, buyers
Do. New	$5	$17½, buyers
South China M. Post.	$25	$22,
Steam Laundry Co. ...	$5	$5½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co	$10	$32
Powell & Co., Wm	$10	$8, sellers
Watkins.....	$10	$3, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S	$10	$11 75, buyers
United Asbestos	$4	$9, buyers
Do. Founders	$10	$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending November 29th, 1906, states:—Only a limited business is reported in stocks generally during the week. The result of the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co.'s confirmatory meeting held on the 27th inst. caused a momentary demand for Docks at Tls. 108 December. This brought out some shares, with the result of the market quietening down again, and though forward prices look lower we consider the market steady for December. Generally speaking prices are easy all round, there being sellers in most stocks at quotations. The T. T. sight rate on London to-day is 3s. 1⅛. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. One transaction is reported at $810. The latest London quotation is £93. 10s. Marine & Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos have been done at Tls. 58, 60 and 58 December and again on the 27th at Tls. 59 December. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Shares (pref.) have been done at Tls. 50, and ordinary shares at Tls 54. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. Operations were reported during the week at Tls. 108, 108½ and 104½ cash; Tls. 109 November, 109, 108 and 105 for December, closing at Tls. 108 for Dec. Shanghai and Hongkews Tls. 232 and Tls. 234 Dec. Sugars.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. at Tls. 97 cash. Mining.—No business. Industrial.—Laou Kung Mows are quoted at Tls. 89 cash. Ewos at Tls. 75 and Tls. 80 December. Kalumpong Rubber. A single operation is reported at Tls. 37. Anglo-German Brewery shares at $101. Maatschappi, &c., in Langka's. Very little business has been done during the week, the only transaction reported was on the 22nd at Tls. 237½ and 236½ for December. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz Shares are quoted at $23½, Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 15, and Astor House Hotel shares at $20. Loans and Debentures.—No business reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 30th November.—Business is very dull, with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to this, 10 cents to 12 cents has been paid for medium sized carriers, and a handy sized boat has secured 15 cents for 6/10 trips, charterers having the option of Singapore at same price and Philippines, at 26 cents; to one port Philippines, for prompt loading, 24.28 cents according to size; to Japan and Java, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 20 and 27 cents per picul. From Hongay to Swatow, $1.25; to Hongay, $1.10 per ton. From Rajang to Hongkong, a steamer has been closed for February loading. From Moji to this, $1.25 to $1.30. The following are the settlements:—

Folk—Norwegian steamer, 2,380 tons, Rajang to Hongkong (February), $11,500 lump sum.

Dagfid—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $1.25 per ton.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 27 cents and 20 cents per picul.

Shahjehan—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Seeta—German steamer, 987 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Kiyo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,062 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Tuhoe—British steamer, 902 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Kiyo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,062 tons, 6/10 trips Saigon to Hongkong, or Singapore, 15 cents option one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.

Ule—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (28,000 piculs), 25 cents per picul.

Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (23,000 piculs) 27 cents per picul.

Ule—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to 1/2 ports Philippines (22,000), 28 and 32 cents per picul.

Hemistal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, hence to Saigon, $3,000 lump sum.

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea 61. $1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tls. 1.60 to $1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December— ARRIVALS

1, Akitsushima, Jap. cruiser, from Swatow.
1, Bellerophon, British str., from Shanghai
1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Triumph, German str., from Newchwang.
1, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap str., from Moji.
2, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
2, Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
2, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
2, Cranley, British str., from Chefoo.
2, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
2, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
2, Hohenstaufen, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
2, Hoihow, British str., from Chefoo.
2, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
2, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
2, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
2, Sithonia, German str., from Amoy.
2, Zoroaster, British str. from Moji.
3, Amigo, German str., from Pakhoi.
3, Buelow, German str., from Yokohama.
3, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Idomeneus, British str., from Shanghai.
3 Kramstad, Norw. str, from Vladivostock.
3, Mausang, British str, from Sandakan.
3, Newby Hall British str., from New York.
3, Queen Alexandra, Brit. str, from Sydney.
4, Cath. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
4, Daiya Maru Japanese str., from Moji.
4, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
4, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
4, Kanju, Japanese str., from Anghin.
4, Nissin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
4, P.E. Friedrich, German str., from Bremen.
4, Quarta, German str., from Swatow.
4, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Saigon
4, Sumatra, British str., from Yokohama.
5, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.
5, Benmohr, British str., from Kobe.
5, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
5, Masan Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
5, Onsang, British str., from Calcutta.
5, Pathfinder, U.S. gunboat, from Manila.
5, Phu-yen, French str., from Saigon.
5, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
5, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
5, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
6, Arcadia, German str., from Vladivostock.
6, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
6, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
6, Hongkong, French str, from Haiphong.
6, Hunan, British str., from Tientsin.
6, Knivsberg, Ger. str., from K'chauwan.
6, Shahjehan, British str., from Saigon.
6, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
7, Algoa, British str., from San Francisco.
7, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
7, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str, from Haiphong.
7, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
7, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
7, Glenavon, British str., from Japan.
7, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
7, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
7, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
7, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
7, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
7, Pingsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
7, Tean, British str., from Manila.
7, Waishing, British str., from Wuhu.
8, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tourane.
8, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str, from S. F'cisco.
8, Nubia, British str., from London.
8, Prinz Sigismund, German str., from Kobe.
8, St. Patrick, British str, from Shanghai.
8, Szechuen, British str., from Shanghai.
8, Ujina Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
9, Childar, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
9, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
9, Ichang, British str., from Swatow.
9, Ithaka, German str., from Chinkiang.
9, Nicomedia, German str., from Portland.
9, Sexta, German str., from Saigon.
9, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
9, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Hongay.

December— DEPARTURES.

1, Cardiganshire, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Eastern, British str., for Manila.
1, Indravelli, Brit. str., for Port Pire, N S.W.
1, Kanagawa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
1, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
1, Malta, British str., for Europe.
1, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
1, Teucer, British str., for Tacoma.
1, Yangmoo, Korean str., for Kuchinotsu.
2, Borneo, German str., for Samboanga.
2, Esang British str., for Shanghai.
2, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
2, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
2, Kabafato Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
2, Kalgan, British str, for Shanghai.
2, Karin, Swedish str, for Haiphong.
2, Keemun, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Lennox, British str, for Calcutta.
3, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
3, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
3, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
3, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
4, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
4, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
4, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
4, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4, Montgomeryshire, Brit. str., for Yokohama.
4, Sithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
4, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
4, Taming, British str., for Manila.
4, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Buelow, German str., for Europe.
5, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., for Anping.
5, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Hanoi, French str, for Haiphong.
5, Idomeneus, British str., for London.
5, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
5, Liangchow, British str, for Shanghai.
5, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
5, Paklat, German str, for Swatow.
5, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai
5, Sumatra, British str., for Singapore.
5, Tingsang, British str., for Hongay.
6, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
6, Bellerophon, British str., for Manila.
6, Brand, Norwegian str., for Singapore
6, Hohenstaufen, German str., for Shanghai.
6, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
6, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Onsang, British str., for Swatow.
6, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
6, Spir, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
6, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
7, Akitsushima, Japanese cruiser, for Amoy.
7, Arcadia, German str., for Calcutta.
7, Benmohr, British str, for London.
7, Glenavon, British str., for London
7, Haichiug, British str., for Coast Ports.
7, Hanyang, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Knivsberg, Ger. str., for Kwangchauwan.
7, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.
7, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
7, Nord, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
7, Quarta, German str., for Swatow.
7, Yuensang, British str. for Manila.
8, Ambria, German str, for Shanghai.
8, Coptic, British str., for Shanghai.
8 Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
8, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
8, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
8, Stettin, British str., for Shanghai.
8, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
9, Clara Jebsen, German str, for Haiphong
9, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
9, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
9, Holstein, German str, for Haiphong.
9, Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
9, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
9, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
9, Zoroaster, British str., for Christmas Isld.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED

Per *Buelow*, from Yokohama, Col. Bridges, Messrs. Caombs and T. Chesan; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs. D. O. Wickham. Lieut. and Mrs. L. Grut; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Rothrock, Capt. Ehrhardt, Miss Kraft; from Shanghai, Messrs. Otto Fischer, Cleget Marel, Capazzo, George Michel, C. B. Collins, George Bow, Flimmer, Mr. and Mrs. L Rezet, Messrs Gottfried Thomas, Herbert Kullmann, H. A. F. Faehne, von Bruning, F. A. v d. Loo, L. Schmidt, Rev. P. T. Stockmann, Messrs. Souza and Gloger.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, for Hongkong from Bremen, Capt. Lieut. Stever, Sub-Lieut. Schlenzka, Paymaster Nyhuis, Messrs. Ulinsky, Doering, Kraul, Meyer, Zaddach, C. Michelsen, and P. Schmidt; from Southampton, Mr. R. Duncan, Rev. J. H. Carew, Miss Goggin, Miss E. M. Sabin, Miss L. M. Medland, Miss J. Bothwell, Miss Stoddard, Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Miss Doherty; from Gibraltar, Mr. M. Ossorio; from Genoa, Messrs. F. Schwarzenbach, B. Hempel, Sub-Lieut. Herrmann, Mr. C. Steinhilber, Sisters Marie Leonie, Chiara and Apresentagas, Mr. and Mrs. H. Reeke, Miss C. Reichert, Miss E. Genahr, Mr. and Mrs O. Schulze, Dr. and Mrs. Synge, Mr. J. H. Dann, Mrs. K. Dobrowohl, Messrs. G. Zeyen and W. Schulze; from Suez, Capt.-Lieut. Kurtz; from Penang, Mr. G. E. Greig and Dr. Laible; from Singapore, Messrs. C. H. Bennett, F. W. Spencer, Rev. C S. Victal, Messrs. Massamull, Shewakram, Shakijan and Schmelischek.

DEPARTED.

Per *Doric*, for San Francisco, &c, Messrs. H. I. Marsh, P. E Mack, E. J. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Macaulay, Miss Macaulay, Messrs A. F. Judd, Chas. E. Cullen, Miss E. G. Tietze, Messrs. A. H. Gulliver, A. H. Silverstone, John C. Phillips, Mrs. C. O. Jennings, Messrs. Geran, H. S. Boone W Domnich, Mrs. A. E. Carpenter, Mrs. Halle, Mr. H. Reiss, and Mrs. M. Marechal.

Per *Nikko Maru*, for Australia, &c., Consul and Mrs. S. Akatsuka and child, Bishop J. Johnson, Rev. and Mrs. M. Johnston, Mrs. H. Wise, Mrs. E. Robertson, Miss Robertson, Dr. and Mrs. C. Tarr, Mrs. Tarr, Mrs. E. Pratt, Mrs. J. Parney, Mr. C Birch, Mrs. Reid, Miss B. Reid, Miss M. Zeid, Mrs. J. Russel, Mrs. S. Wilson, Master Wilson, Mr. C. Donbigh, Miss Donbigh, Miss R. W. Torran, Messrs. Shiba, G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Clayton, Messrs. R. Gallotty, Mackinnon, Miss Bryant, Mrs. E. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Van Deman, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stark and children, Mrs. C. C. Martin, Miss C. A. O'Reilly, Lieut. and Mrs. Burnett, Messrs. J. S. Woddington, Geo. I. Wagner, M. Friedmann, Lon Richardson, Mrs. and Miss Chaplin, Miss Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cormack, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. John Bell, Messrs. J. McClellan, Albert Ellmonger, A. Camara, Harry Yee Bert, Yuen Alick and Loriono Dison.

Per *Malta*, for London, Mr. and Mrs. F. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. W. Adams Frost, Miss Loura Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmour, Mrs. S. M. and 2 Misses Kinney, Messrs. W. C. Stevenson and W. H Anderson; for Brindisi, Mr. M. A. Tuttle, Mr. and Mrs. F .V. Loucks; for Marseilles Lord B. Gordon Lennox, Messrs. R. W. Allen, R. Wetherell, C. E. Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. J. E Lilly, Mrs. W. H. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Bates, Messrs. H. S. Moss, F. W. Imbert Terry, Mrs and Miss Imbert Terry, Mr. and Mrs G C. Appel, Mr. F. T. Freeland, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Messrs. D. Irvins and Bart Shea; for Port Said, Mr. Wm. Jones; for Bombay, Messrs. F. X. de Mello and S. P. Wadia; for Colombo, Rev. and Mrs. T. Lemley; for Singapore, Messrs. S. E. Barrett, R. L. Barrett, W. F. Cullen, W. T. Law, J. M. Boyd, S. C. Vickers, F. Fletcher, J. J. de Gast and F. Richards.

Per *Buelow*, for Hamburg, &c. Baron Conr. von Bernewitz, Baron Erich Buddenbrock, Dr. Boehm, Right Rev. Andrew Boylan, Mr. Hans Breckwoldt, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brewster, Messrs. Georges H. Colby, Raoul de Cartier, Capt. G. Garnaud and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Cotton, Messrs. Elias, H. Farmer, Gruenberg, Dr. S. Gurbski, Miss Benedett Guenero, Mrs. M. Homann and children, Miss E. Heyde, Capt. Hartog, Mrs. C. S. Hollault, Messrs. C. Hewitt, Hewett, Mrs. H. Kyle, Mrs M. Karstens, Messrs. Herm. Kiesel, Carlos Lamela, Mr. and Mrs. Langschwadt and child, Miss Musleah, Mr. and Mrs. R. Meyer, Mr. P. Martin, Rev. S. P. Merrill, Dr. G. E. Mears, Miss Ellen E. Mellen, Miss Marion Mellen, Mr. Meyer, Rev. F. A. Nind and family, Mrs. Hatsutory Okatsan, Mrs J. C. Phillips, Miss Phillips, Mr. C. R. Perkins, Capt. S. A. Purviance, Miss Minnie Rank, Mr. E. Reyes, Miss Mariska Rescey, Mrs. von Syburg and child, Mr. v. Cannstadt, Mrs. T. C Swaby, Messrs. R. Todzuka, Alex. Thaler, Ubanoburs, Capt Lieut. Widemann, Mr. Werner, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Wakeman, Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Wickham, and Capt.-Lieut. v. Zerboni di Sposetti.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Vœux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.